

Collor de Mello leads in Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Conservative Fernando Collor de Mello surged ahead of his socialist opponent in Brazil's first presidential election since 1964, the nation's largest television network reported Monday. Sunday's runoff was seen as a referendum on two decades of military rule and the country's economic problems, including corruption and the developing world's largest foreign debt, \$110 billion. Voters chose between two kinds of reform to attack the problems — Collor de Mello's free-market policies or Luis Inacio Lula da Silva's plans that included redistribution of land and wealth, reform in education and health care and a moratorium on Brazil's foreign debt. The Globo TV network had Collor de Mello ahead by 2.9 million votes, or 4.9 per cent of the total, with 85.7 per cent of the votes counted in an unofficial tally. Globo TV owner Roberto Marinho backs Collor de Mello. The network, which used its computers to tally the returns from individual states, Monday projected Collor de Mello as the winner. Meanwhile, the supreme electoral court had Collor de Mello leading Lula da Silva by one percentage point, with 33.3 per cent of the returns in from Sunday's runoff election.

Jordan Times

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Cairo, Damascus seek improved ties

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak said Monday that Cairo and Damascus were working to improve strained relations before restoring diplomatic ties, cut in 1979 after Egypt signed the peace treaty with Israel. "We must look to the future and develop relations," Mubarak told reporters. "That is the origin and the foundation (for restoring ties)." Asked if a message he received from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad this week was related to restoring relations, Mubarak said: "Conversations between us are constant and continuous." On Sunday, Information Minister Safwat Sharrif announced the first Egyptian minister to visit Syria in 12 years. His brief stopover trip ended with the two countries expressing interest in joint Arab action and strengthening cooperation. In Damascus, Syrian officials praised the rapprochement with Egypt, suggesting that the crumbling of barriers between East and West and moves towards a single European market were forcing Arab states to work together. "We are living in an era of massive political and economic change that will lead to a united Europe in 1992. We are still far behind and should speed up our moves to catch up with world developments," one official said.

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King hails world changes but urges Arab vigilance

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday hailed the present relaxed world political atmosphere and East-West détente as a turning point in the life of man on earth and described the end of the cold war as a blessing to mankind.

In a speech at the graduation of two batches of army commanders, the King, however, warned the Arab Nation to remain "vigilant and ready for all eventualities lest the new world developments should bring about changes at the Arab Nation's expense."

Addressing a joint ceremony for the graduation of the third group of army commanders from the Royal War College and the 30th batch of officers from the Royal Command and Staff Academy, the King said the recent superpower summit in Malta officially brought the cold war to an end and the world was rejoicing over the relaxed atmosphere and the end of East-West tension.

"The world is witnessing a new era of cooperation in place of confrontation among world nations, but we wonder if such positive development would be reflected on the Middle East region, particularly on the Palestine issue," the King said.

"Will the end of the cold war end the conflict in the Middle East or will the area remain hostage to Zionist ambitions, and will the superpowers, which have embarked on resolving regional

conflicts, cooperate to find a just solution for the Palestine issue that has sapped the resources of the region for so long, and will all these result in helping the Palestinian people regain their freedom and exercise their right to self-determination in an independent state on Palestinian national soil like the rest of the world's nations," the King asked.

"It is time for the peoples of the Middle East region to enjoy peace and direct their attention towards reconstruction and development, free of all forms of danger and wars," King Hussein said.

"As we watch the relaxed world atmosphere encompassing various areas of the world except ours, we should remain vigilant and pursue efforts and seek to direct the world's attention to this region," the King added.

"We should watch the events around us and remain aware of the various changes and fast moving developments around the world and ensure that the creation of new relationships would not be at the expense of the Arabs," King Hussein warned.

He said coordination and cooperation among Arab countries through the Arab League should continue and the Arabs must adopt a unified attitude towards the changing world.

"It is time for the Arabs to opt for regional cooperation, which is the only means for the nation's

existence and progress," the King said.

King Hussein referred in this context to cooperation among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union "as steps on the right track; but not the end of the road."

King Hussein congratulated the graduates and said that Jordan was proud to have offered training at its military institutions to officers from other Arab armies. "Officers from other Arab countries constitute 27 per cent of the total graduates this year and this is a positive development pointing to a greater measure of inter-Arab military cooperation, which, I hope, will lead to a similar degree of close cooperation among Arab states in economic and political affairs," King Hussein said.

The King also revealed that among the graduates this year were a group of officers from France. "The presence of French army officers among the graduates point to the good prospects of close North-South cooperation based on mutual respect and common interests," he said.

Turning to the domestic situation, King Hussein described the election of Jordan's 11th Parliament last month as a national achievement, opening the door for parliamentary and democratic

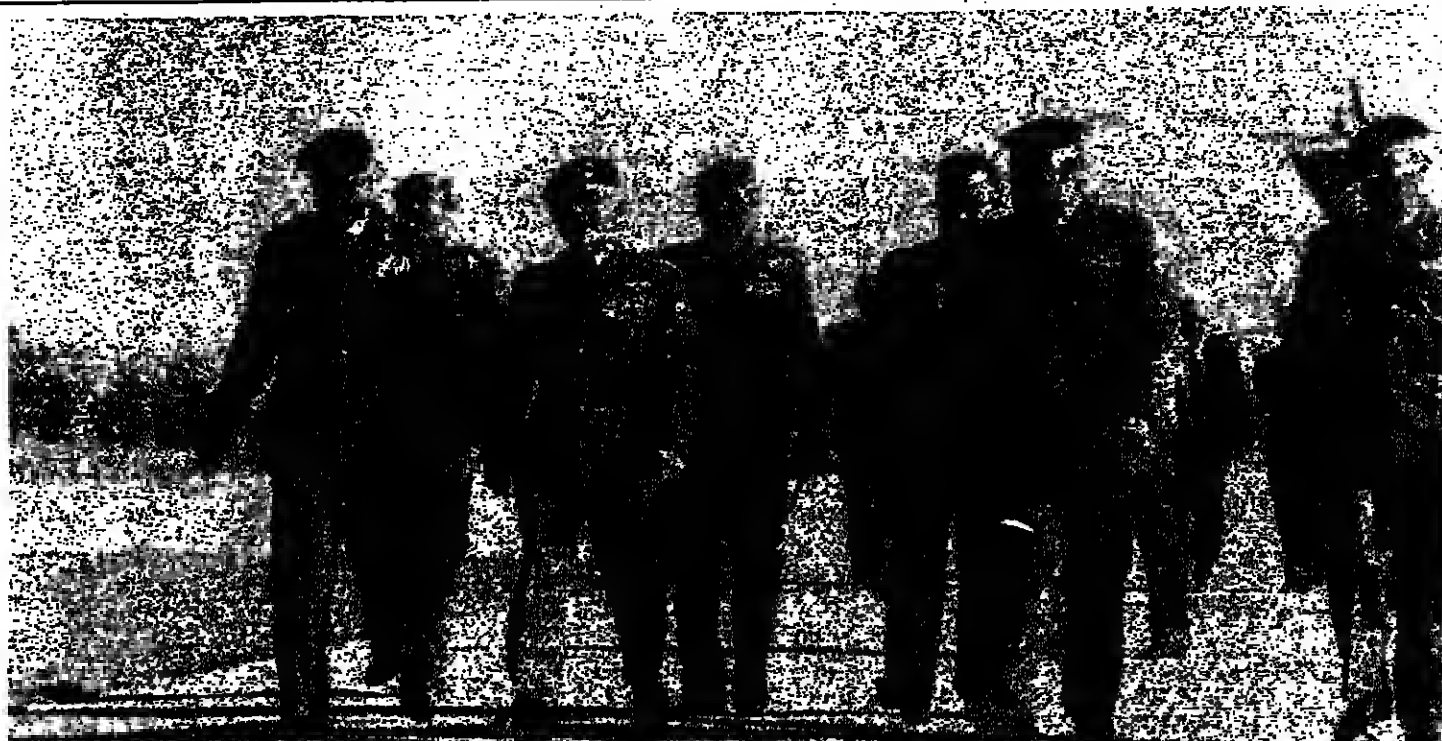
life in the Kingdom.

"We are totally committed to protecting democracy, which we hope to employ as a style of life in Jordan, but I would like to emphasise here that protection of democracy basically emanates from the conscience and behaviour of the people who exercise democracy," King Hussein said.

"Freedom within the framework of democracy means responsibility and commitment to the Constitution and the country's laws and regulations," the King added. "All citizens are responsible for protecting democracy, and all citizens are equal before the law by which they should all abide."

"Democracy and public order are two faces of the same coin and the requirements of democracy should be shouldered by both the executive and legislative authorities in the country on equal footing with intellectuals, journalists, educationists and leaders of the community."

King Hussein later distributed diplomas and awards to the graduates. Attending the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Al Hussein, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other senior officials and high-ranking army officers as well as heads of diplomatic missions in the Kingdom.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday arrives at the Royal War College to attend a graduation ceremony (Petra photo)

Crown Prince meets Hurd, calls for Mideast efforts

LONDON (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday stressed the need to mobilise international efforts in order to contribute to solving the Middle East conflicts, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

During a meeting with British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Douglas Hurd, Prince Hassan underlined the "need to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 to end

the Iran-Iraq dispute as soon as possible," Petra said.

The talks also touched on Jordanian-British relations.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Majesty King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi, and Jordanian Ambassador in London Albert Butros. Present on the British side was senior British Foreign Office officials.

The Crown Prince arrived in London from the U.S. where he met with President George Bush and senior administration officials as well as U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He delivered a message from the King to Bush on Jordan's views on the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe and their possible impact on the Middle East.

The Crown Prince returned to Amman late Monday.

France urged to help peace process

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — French Prime Minister Michel Rocard met Monday with leading Palestinians from the occupied territories who asked France's help in convincing Israel to accept the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a negotiating partner.

While here on a private visit, Rocard also met after his arrival Sunday with Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres and had dinner with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who strongly opposes any role for the PLO in Middle East peace talks.

Radwan Abu Ayash, one of 14 Palestinians who met Rocard at the French consulate here, said the delegation urged a role for France in the peace process.

"We discussed the peace process and the role France can play in pressuring Israel to accept the PLO as a full partner in negotiations," said Abu Ayash, head of the Journalists Union in the occupied West Bank.

"The Palestinians made it very clear that we expect France to play a bigger role, especially in Europe, in order to push the peace process forward, and he promised to do so," said Abu Ayash.

"We made it very clear that the PLO should have the right to participate and to get involved in the peace process from the beginning," Abu Ayash said as spokesman for the group.

Speaking to Israel Radio before meeting Shamir Sunday night, Rocard said France was willing to assist dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians if its help was wanted, "which remains to be proved."

Avi Kaminer, an adviser to Shamir, said Rocard and the prime minister discussed peace prospects but not a role for the PLO. The dinner at Shamir's residence was the first official function attended by the prime minister since his release from Hadassah Hospital Sunday morning following surgery for a hernia.

Rocard was scheduled to leave after attending a ceremony later Monday naming a Jaffa street after former French Prime Minister Pierre Mendes-France, a Jew and a strong supporter of Israel who died in 1982.

Later Monday, Rocard, in a veiled criticism of the Israeli government, praised Israelis who held peace talks with the PLO. Inaugurating the street in Jaffa, Rocard recalled a secret 1976 meeting between two Israeli leftists and PLO official Issam Sartawi, which "Mendes-France arranged."

"These men needed courage to go against the tide but they also needed a mediator. Pierre Mendes-France was that man," Rocard said in a prepared speech.

Khalaf: No PLO-Egypt differences

KUWAIT (AP) — A top aide to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Monday flatly denied the existence of differences between Egypt and the PLO over the U.S.-led Middle East peace moves.

"There are no differences between the PLO and Egypt," Salah Khalaf, second in command in Arafat's mainstream Fatah group, said in an interview. "We are in complete agreement over the PLO's standing as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Khalaf was responding to a question on reports from Washington that differences between the PLO and Cairo could form a snag in the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli meeting for which preparations are under way.

According to the Washington reports, problems between the

Arab countries and the PLO have arisen because of questions as to whether Egypt would be speaking for the PLO.

The meeting, expected next month in Washington, follows an announcement from Washington that Egypt gave its qualified acceptance to the plan by Secretary of State James Baker to meet with the Israelis under U.S. auspices to pave the way for a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Israel so far refuses to have PLO representatives or PLO-selected representatives in the Palestinian delegation, while Egypt has been seeking compromise representation formulas, such as the nomination of PLO sympathisers if not outright members.

"The PLO will not heed the outcome of next month's meeting of the U.S. secretary of state and the foreign ministers of Egypt

and Israel if they ignored the PLO's exclusive right to name the Palestinian delegation to the proposed Palestinian-Israeli talks," said Khalaf.

"The differences exist between us and each of the United States and Israel. There are no differences between us and Egypt," he added.

He said a Palestinian delegation would visit Cairo later this week to stress anew this point before Esmat Abdel Meguid, the Egyptian foreign minister, leaves for Washington.

Khalaf denied that Egypt had communicated its own reply to the Baker plan. "There is no Egyptian reply to the Baker plan. The Egyptians were under obligation to communicate the PLO's reply as it was handed to Mr. Abdul Meguid," he said.

Reiterating the PLO principles for the dialogue, Khalaf said:

"We are ready to deal with the Baker plan subject to three principles: PLO's exclusive right to form the Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories, the agenda should include items other than the elections and the direct talks should be a preparation for the international summit."

Khalaf said that once the Washington meeting succeeded in leading to direct talks between the Palestinians and Israel "we will immediately announce our negotiating team."

Khalaf disclosed "differences" between the PLO and its traditional friend, the Soviet Union, over Moscow's plans to allow large numbers of Soviet Jews to leave for Israel. But he said the Kremlin still supported the convening of an international conference and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

11 wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Soldiers shot and wounded 13 Palestinians on Monday during a stone-throwing protest against vandalism by Jewish settlers at a Gaza Strip building site planned to house Palestinian refugees, reporters said.

The army confirmed the settlers' attack in the town of Rafah, and a settler group issued a warning of more such assaults unless Israel dropped plans to resettle 5,800 refugees from Egypt in the occupied seaside strip.

The 13 wounded in Rafah included a 10-year-old boy seriously wounded in the head with

rubber bullets and another 10-year-old shot in the hand, hospital officials said. They also reported 18 people shot in other clashes with Israeli troops Monday in Gaza.

The army confirmed 10 wounded in Gaza's Shati refugee camp and said it was checking the reports of wounded in Rafah.

Meanwhile, shops were closed and transportation was halted throughout Gaza and the West Bank in a general strike called by the leadership of the Palestinian uprising in solidarity with the more than 9,000 Palestinians held in army prisons.

GCC opens summit

MUSCAT (R) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman opened an annual summit of Gulf Arab leaders Monday by calling for an even-handed approach towards the unresolved Iran-Iraq war.

He told leaders of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) he hoped Iran and Iraq would reach a final settlement to their conflict, which has cast a shadow over the summit.

"We hope that these two countries will pave the way for these negotiations to achieve a permanent solution," he said in reference to U.N.-sponsored peace negotiations.

Iran and Iraq halted fighting in their eight-year war in August 1988, but efforts by the United Nations have made almost no progress towards persuading them to agree on terms for a lasting peace.

Sultan Qaboos, hosting the summit, expressed support for Arab peace efforts in Lebanon and for the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Omani News Agency said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urged the GCC leaders to take balanced decisions to help to resolve Middle East problems.

"I hope the conference will be a success..." Gorbachev said in a cable to the leaders of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

U.S. President George Bush and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar also sent messages to Sultan Qaboos supporting efforts to resolve the Iran-Iraq war peacefully.

Shevardnadze: No unilateral pullout

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Monday quashed speculation that Moscow might be considering unilateral withdrawal of all its troops stationed abroad.

The Soviet Union has said it wants to bring home all 627,500 military personnel stationed abroad, most of them in Eastern Europe, by the end of the century.

But Shevardnadze, on a visit to Belgium, strongly suggested that such withdrawals would depend on the "United States pulling its forces out of Western Europe and firmly ruled out the possibility that they might be carried out unilaterally."

"We are very interested in a solution, but I underline that it must be on a reciprocal basis," said Shevardnadze, speaking to reporters through an interpreter. "It is not an easy problem to resolve, we must find a reciprocal solution... I am thinking of the U.S. presence," he said, after a working lunch with Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens. "We have a mutual interest in stability in Europe."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has previously rejected such suggestions, declaring that it has to maintain substantial U.S. forces in Europe since it would otherwise rely entirely on trans-Atlantic reinforcements in time of crisis.

Shevardnadze is in Brussels to sign a trade and cooperation treaty with the European Community (EC), and he will visit NATO headquarters Tuesday — the first Warsaw Pact minister ever to do so.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, at a news conference at the United Nations Friday, spoke of a planned troop pullout but did not make clear whether he meant unilateral withdrawal.

This caused media speculation that Moscow was simply prepared to withdraw all foreign troops by the year 2000.

Eyskens told reporters he and Shevardnadze had discussed a wide range of East-West issues. Both men hoped that 1990 would see the signing of a treaty to cut conventional forces in Europe, another which would halve the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals and an effective global ban on chemical weapons.

Eyskens said he gave Shevardnadze the EC's position on German unity. At a recent summit in Strasbourg, France, the EC leaders gave their strong support to eventual reunification but stressed that other European borders must stay in place to ensure stability.

They said the unity process should take place peacefully and democratically and in the context of the 1975 Helsinki accords that fixed post-World War II borders. Belgian officials said Shevardnadze, in talks with Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, called for a "new European economic order."

They quoted Shevardnadze as saying the 10-year trade and economic cooperation accord reached by the Soviet Union and the EC was a first step. They said Shevardnadze also called for increased East-West dialogue.

U.N. official denies Khartoum charge of ferrying rebel arms

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A senior United Nations official Monday categorically denied charges that arms and ammunition were smuggled to Sudanese rebels by a U.N.-organised relief programme and expressed hope that such allegations would not preempt much-needed relief efforts in the war-hit, famine-stricken country.

"It is unfortunate that these allegations have been made and I am saddened by them," said Richard Reid, regional director of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the Middle East and North Africa, referring to charges made in Khartoum by a top-level officer in the military junta now ruling Sudan. "All of us in Operation Lifeline Sudan knew the trust the government had put in the U.N. to preserve total security and control in our food and health supplies distribution process; and to ensure that these relief supplies — and nothing else — were distributed to war-affected people on both sides of the fighting lines," Reid, who is based in Amman, told the Jordan Times.

Phase one of Operation Lifeline Sudan, which involved many U.N. agencies including UNICEF, and other international organisations, was completed in October this year. It involved moving 110,000 tonnes

of food and health supplies into various parts of Sudan, particularly the south where a civil war is raging since 1984, to help victims of famine and drought. Reid said the relief operation averted a "repetition" of last year — when 250,000 people died of starvation, malnutrition and epidemics in southern Sudan.

Operation Lifeline Sudan was made possible after the Khartoum junta and the southern rebels agreed to honour an agreement to offer safe conduct to relief supplies and not to hamper other related operations.

But, Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, a member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) of Sudan — the military junta — charged Sunday that "There were excesses in the relief operation, which had a mercy tag but was hostile in reality."

"We have irrefutable evidence that arms, ammunition and spare parts for vehicles reached the rebels through relief and were later used to kill innocent people," Khalifa, deputy to Sudanese strongman Omar Hassan Al Bashir, was quoted as saying at a press conference in the Sudanese capital.

Asked by the Jordan Times Monday to comment on the charge, Reid pointed out that "scores of monitors — U.N. personnel — (were) assigned specifically to inspect each step

of distribution." "Operation Lifeline Sudan succeeded through the trust of the government of Sudan and through the confidence given by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)," he added.

The U.N. official, who said he was personally involved in the relief programme, expressed hope that the next phase of the operation would not be jeopardised by the dispute. "Operation Lifeline Sudan was able in the past year to do its job because of trust," he said. "We need to preserve that trust if Operation Lifeline Sudan II — next year's relief operation — is to go forward effectively."

"For the lives of Sudanese children and women particularly, this is crucial," he added. Reports from Khartoum indicate that the military junta led by Bashir, who assumed power after overthrowing the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi in June this year, is insisting that a fresh ceasefire with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the military wing of the SPLM, is in place before any relief efforts could be resumed.

In a tacit arrangement seen by observers as anxiety on both sides to project a humanitarian image, the military rulers and the rebels had been renewing unilateral ceasefires since June to facilitate relief efforts, but the truce collapsed after the SPLA overran a border town in



Richard Reid

October. A round of peace talks held in Nairobi, Kenya, between the junta and SPLA early this month broke up with no definite sign of progress. Both sides have given conflicting versions of the next phase in negotiations to end the five-year civil war.

According to Western relief officials, food stocks at the southern provincial capital of Juba are expected to run out before the end of the year, and phase two of Operation Lifeline Sudan, which involves ferrying 90,000 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the south in January, is paralysed by the conditions attached to it by the Bashir regime.

However, in his comments Sunday, Khalifa, who led the junta team to the Nairobi talks, appeared to hold out the possibility of resuming Operation Lifeline Sudan. He said the ruling council in Khartoum and donor governments would hold a meeting next month to discuss the issue.

Israel strengthens SLA but discipline remains uncertain

MAJDIA, Lebanon (AP) — The South Lebanon Army (SLA) created by Israel to help guard the border, has honed its fighting skills and expanded in size. But there is no sign Israel is ready to withdraw from Lebanon and leave the fighting to its friends.

With Israeli advisers and reporters watching, the SLA recently showed off its gunnery prowess in a live-fire exercise with a dozen Soviet T-55 tanks captured from the PLO by Israel's army.

Barrels flashed and the aging tanks knocked out rusty trucks on a hillside nearly a kilometre away.

The Lebanese crews, silhouetted on a ridge, could be seen jumping and waving their arms with delight.

The exercise, Israeli advisers stressed, marked a significant improvement in the military capabilities of the militia that helps Israeli troops patrol a

four to 20-kilometre-deep buffer zone just north of Israel's border.

However, some observers see a major problem with the militia's reliability and discipline.

The SLA has caused Israel political embarrassment by getting involved in shooting incidents with the nine-nation, 5,700-member U.N. peacekeeping force that patrols north of the buffer zone.

It also has stirred up anti-Israeli sentiment with indiscriminate shelling attacks on Shi'ite Muslim villages.

SLA Commander Antoine Lahad, 62, a retired Lebanese army general, told reporters his force made a "lot of improvement" since Israel withdrew the bulk of its troops in 1985.

"The SLA was more like a militia. Now it has developed into a small regular army," he said, adding the force numbered 3,000 men, up from

2,000 a year ago, and may expand further.

Lahad said an Israeli presence was needed until Syria withdrew its 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

"The day we face Lebanese opponents only, we can do without the backing of the Israeli army," said Lahad, a Christian whose militia controls an area with a predominantly Shi'ite Muslim population of 200,000.

Israel has stationed troops in Lebanon since shortly after the Lebanon civil war began in 1975.

Col. Renaan Gissin, deputy army spokesman, said Israel had no plans to leave but also had no interest in Lebanon beyond protecting its 100-kilometre border.

"I don't think you can call it occupation. We are only taking the measures necessary to insure we can maintain adequate security along our northern border," he said, adding the

zone had proved a success because life in northern Israel was normal and no Israeli civilian had died in an attack from Lebanon since 1985.

The SLA's reliability remains a major concern.

In recent years, the Christian-led force was riddled with defections by Shi'ites, had its positions overrun by Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas and proved unable to stop Palestinian infiltrations into the security zone.

The SLA has also borne the brunt of Shi'ite and Palestinian attacks, suffering 188 killed and 600 wounded in the past four years. So far this year, the SLA has been targeted for 350 guerrilla attacks, about half the level of the previous year.

"There has been a marked change in the SLA. They are more confident and act less like a militia. There is less indiscriminate fire, and more Israeli supervision," said a foreign diplomat, who has long

experience in South Lebanon.

Some experts, however, are less confident of the SLA's ability to restrain its militiamen from exacting revenge and say the force is incapable of standing up to guerrilla attacks without Israeli troops.

"The SLA will hold on as long as Israeli army is the backbone. Discipline is good as long as Israeli officers are there," said Yoram Hamiz-rachi, a retired colonel who was in charge of training the SLA from 1977 to 1980.

"They are improving in military skills. They can read maps and coordinate their actions. But they have a tendency to lose their tempers. I wouldn't trust them in anything major," he said.

In early December, for example, SLA gunners retaliated for the ambush killing of three SLA militiamen by firing sporadic barrages at civilian areas north of the security zone.

Lebanese reports said nine civilians were killed in the Shi'ite town of Nabatiyeh.

Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri responded with a warning that his Amal militiamen would shell Israeli settlements if the SLA attacks persisted.

Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, Israel's northern front commander, conceded in a recent interview that he had frequent arguments with SLA commanders about the use of force.

He said that it was normal for Lebanese militias to fire 100 to 300 shells into a small village. "According to Lebanese rules, it's okay. We don't let them do it."

Peled, 69, said it was "quite difficult" to get the SLA to understand Israel's objections but "during the past two or three years we succeeded to change their behavior. I don't know if it will go back to the way it was, but there has been a tremendous change."

Israeli newsmen charged for entering closed zone

TEL AVIV (AP) — For the first time in two-year Palestinian uprising, police have charged journalists with entering an area declared closed by the military, police said Monday.

The charges were brought against three Israeli reporters, Joel Greenberg of the English-language Jerusalem Post, Ori Nir of Haaretz and Oren Cohen of Hadashot.

Shani Naim, police prosecutor, said the three would not be jailed during legal proceedings but could be sentenced to up to two years in prison if convicted of the charges. He said he was uncertain when the trial would be held.

The charges were presented Sunday before the Jerusalem magistrate's court, Naim said.

During the uprising, soldiers have regularly blocked reporters from entering troubled towns or villages by declaring their closed military areas. While reporters have been detained several times for entering such areas, no charges have been brought.

Greenberg, Nir and Cohen were found by army troops in the West Bank city of Nablus on Nov. 15, 1988, after the city of 120,000 had been closed by the army.

The incident occurred on the day that the PLO declared an independent Palestinian state. To prevent trouble, the army put the entire Gaza Strip under curfew and ordered Nablus and several other West Bank towns and vil-

lages to be closed areas.

The Jerusalem Post quoted the charge sheet as saying the journalists "stayed for a long time inside Nablus after it was declared a closed area... although they heard at 7 a.m. on the radio that the area was declared closed."

Greenberg claimed at the time that the three were unaware Nablus had been closed when they entered the city.

"We didn't know it was a closed military area because we left early in the morning and they didn't say anything about closure the day before," he said.

The three were detained by soldiers in Al-Itihad hospital, and said they had remained there for fear of endangering themselves after the closure order was announced.

The Hebrew daily Hadashot, whose reporter Cohen was among those accused, said in an editorial that the police charge "is just another, and exceptionally bitter, expression of the decline of our democracy due to pressure from the uprising."

Roni Shaked, head of the Association of Israeli Reporters covering the occupied territories, issued a protest to the charges.

"This step damages the work of reporters in the (occupied) territories and limits their ability to report freely and supply the Israeli public with reliable and accurate information," he was quoted as saying in Haaretz.

2nd Sudanese executed

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Another Sudanese civilian, this time convicted of drug trafficking, was hanged Sunday in the second execution carried out by the military junta that took power last summer.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Saeed Mohammad Jaballa was hanged at dawn Sunday at Cooper Prison in Khartoum.

The agency also confirmed earlier reports that Said Magdi Mahgoub Mohammad Ahmad was hanged at dawn Sunday at the same prison but gave no further details.

There was no immediate information on Jaballa or when he was sentenced to death.

Ahmad, a 25-year-old businessman, was sentenced to death early this month along with Ali Bashir Marioud, also convicted of black-market trading in foreign currency.

The military government introduced tough foreign exchange regulations last July which made dealing in drugs and black market a capital crime.

The junta, led by Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, took over from the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadek Al-Mahdi in a bloodless coup last

June.

Ahmad's family members said earlier that prison authorities told them Saturday night to take his body for burial Sunday morning.

Hundreds of men and women joined the funeral chanting "La ilah ila Allah," there is no God but God, and "Magdi is a martyr."

Also on death row is Maamoun Mohammad Hussein, convicted of leading a one week strike by physicians last month. The strike was in protest over the detention of colleagues in military jails and the dismissal of physicians from government posts.

The tribunal sentenced Hussein last week and said it based its decision on regulations enforced by the junta making strikes illegal and punishable by death.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last week urged Bashir to spare the doctor.

SUNA in a separate report, said Idris Al-Banna, a member of the now-dissolved joint presidency, would be tried by a military tribunal this month for printing anti-government leaflets.

Banna was jailed for 40 years on Sept. 2 after his conviction on charges of corruption. Bashir later ordered a retrial, which has not yet started.

'Pan Am trials likely to take place in U.S.'

LONDON (AP) — Scotland's attorney general says criminal trials arising from the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that killed 270 people probably will take place in the United States, an Edinburgh weekly reported Sunday.

"In this matter, on terrorists, I think there can be little doubt that the Americans could assert a jurisdiction," the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Lord Fraser, was quoted as telling the newspaper Scotland Sunday.

But a spokesman for Lord Fraser "firmly refused" a London newspaper report that police have gathered enough evidence to charge several suspects in the bombing of the Jumbo Jet on Dec. 21, 1988.

The Sunday Times of London said that despite cautious public statements, Scottish investigators told a secret, five-nation summit of security services that "charges are now possible against certain persons."

It said Scottish police investigators told the summit in Mecklenheim, West Germany, that some suspects might have to be tried abroad because of extradition obstacles.

The newspaper did not say when the summit took place, but said it was attended by leaders of security services in Britain, West

Germany, the United States, Sweden and Malta.

It did not identify the source of its information.

New York-bound Flight 103 originated in Frankfurt, West Germany, and was flown up over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people aboard and 11 people on the ground were killed.

Lord Fraser Friday announced the first public inquiry into the bombing, but said criminal proceedings were not imminent.

The Sunday Times said police are likely waiting until their inquiries are completed in their or four months before starting criminal proceedings.

It reported police "have for some time suspected who the killers are, but the painstaking assembly of evidence has been a long task."

Fraser identified Ahmad Jibril's radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command as among groups under investigation.

The Sunday Times said Scottish police are expected Monday to interview Mohammad Abu Talh, a member of the radical Palestinian Popular Struggle Front who is in a Swedish prison awaiting the verdict of a trial for bomb attacks.

Malaysia calls for int'l conference on Palestine

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia called Monday for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to help settle the Palestinian problem.

"It should have the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on an equal footing," Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Bin Oman said.

The proposed conference should help initiate dialogue and identify "new approaches to end the decades of injustices done to the Palestinian people," Abu Hassan told a seminar on Palestine attended by more than 150 academics, PLO officials and members of non-government organisations from 30 countries.

"We are at a momentous crossroads. A dialogue between the parties involved at this stage could be a constructive step to the comprehensive talks envisaged in the international conference," he said.

Palstinian leader Yasser Arafat said in comments read at the opening of the five-day seminar that more than 1,000 Palestinians have died and 47,000 have been injured under the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

"Our militant people is more determined now than ever to continue its just cause of struggle with strong resolve and a united national will until it is able to put

an end to the occupation and give concrete form to its national independence through the establishment of its independent state," Arafat said.

At least 596 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops and civilians in the two-year-old Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Another 156 have been killed by fellow Arabs on suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

Eighteen Westerners are missing in Lebanon and are believed to be held as hostages. The longest held is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

ICRC would continue its humanitarian activities in Lebanon although these were jeopardised by the abduction of Emanuel Christen and Elio Enriquez.

It said Sommaruga renewed an urgent appeal for their release "so that ICRC delegates can once again fulfil their humanitarian mission throughout the country in an atmosphere of renewed confidence and respect."

The statement said the fighting in Lebanon and its effects on the civilian population was also discussed at the meeting.

Sommaruga reminded all parties of their humanitarian responsibility to ensure "respect, in all circumstances, for the civilian population, medical personnel, and hospitals, the wounded, prisoners, and objects vital to their survival of the population."

Christen and Enriquez worked as orthopedic technicians in

ICRC head, Hrawi discuss release of hostages

GENEVA (AP) — The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Cornelio Sommaruga, called on Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Beirut Monday as efforts continued to obtain the release of two ICRC relief workers kidnapped in Lebanon 2½ months ago.

A statement issued at the Geneva headquarters of the All-Swiss Agency said Sommaruga assured the president that the

ICRC would continue its humanitarian activities in Lebanon although these were jeopardised by the abduction of Emanuel Christen and Elio Enriquez.

It said Sommaruga renewed an urgent appeal for their release "so that ICRC delegates can once again fulfil their humanitarian mission throughout the country in an atmosphere of renewed confidence and respect."

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King Hassan: Women are equal in Koran

RABAT (R) — Morocco's King Hassan, attacking what he called the intolerance of some Islamic movements, said Muslim men and women had equal rights.

Muslim men and women are like Siamese twins, with the same rights and duties, and nothing in the Koran obliges women to play a secondary role, the king said Sunday in an interview on the French television show l'Heure de Verite.

He said he had personally intervened to ask two Moroccan girls in France not to wear Muslim headscarves in class. The issue has caused a political furor there.

Asked about radical Islamic movement, King Hassan said some Muslims were aggressive, intolerant and "non-progressive" and disfigured religion.

"I do not feel they are my brothers," he said.

He said fewer and fewer

Moroccan women wore veils. They had free access to professions such as medicine, law, banking and commerce.

Answering a viewer's question in a phone-in, King Hassan said he did not recommend marriages between people of different culture or religious backgrounds. Only one per cent succeeded.

He said Moroccan workers in France should not integrate into the host society or be allowed to

vote, as has been proposed. About 600,000 Moroccans live there.

Commenting on allegations by the Amnesty International human rights group that prisoners in Morocco have been tortured, he said he doubted if even one per cent of the accusations were true.

Amnesty had been invited to send representatives to Morocco but had not responded, the king said in the programme, which was monitored in Rabat.

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Ceausescu in Iran despite turmoil at home

NICOSIA (AP) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Tehran Monday on a three-day official visit amid mounting violence in his country and political turmoil in Eastern Europe.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, said Ceausescu was given a red-carpet welcome by his Iranian counterpart Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Romanian News Agency Agencepres, making no mention of any unrest in his country, had earlier reported Ceausescu's departure from Bucharest airport.

His wife Elena, the second most powerful person in the country, stayed behind although she usually accompanies her husband on trips abroad.

Ceausescu will finalise agreements reached by the Tehran-Bucharest Commission that met in Iran last week.

"The Iran-Romania summit is an expression of the positive

course of relations between our countries and people," Ceausescu told a Tehran-based English language daily, the Tehran Times.

Contacts so far were having good results "especially in economic and technical-scientific cooperation," he said in excerpts quoted by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). The interview apparently was conducted earlier in Bucharest.

Tehran Radio reported Sunday that Iran will export about 1 million barrels of oil and 1 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year to Romania.

The agreement was concluded Sunday at a meeting between Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azaradeh and visiting Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Radu.

It was Tehran's third large gas agreement this year with an East Bloc country.

Romania is Iran's second big-

gest trading partner in Eastern Europe, with an estimated volume this year of about \$1.8 billion.

Romania earlier this year announced plans to export 5 million metric tonnes of crude oil to Romania in return for tractors, oil drilling equipment and military equipment, including tanks.

IRNA reported that under the Sunday's agreement, Romania will supply equipment for constructing Tehran's subway system.

Romanian experts are also working with the Iranians on a major irrigation dam project at Rayah, 30 kilometres south of Tehran.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei visited Romania in February, when he was Iran's president. He was chosen as the country's spiritual leader last June following the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Romania sealed its border with

Yugoslavia to all but official traffic Monday after an anti-government demonstration erupted into violence in the west Romanian city of Timisoara.

Budapest Radio, quoting unidentified witnesses, said Monday that Romanian security forces had sealed off Timisoara, the country's fourth largest city.

Romanian emigres said thousands of demonstrators battled security forces over the weekend after ransacking a library and burning books by Ceausescu.

Ceausescu, who was elected Romanian Communist Party chief on March 22, 1965, is the longest-serving Soviet Bloc leader.

He has stamped out almost all dissent in Romania. His crash industrialisation programmes and his frantic efforts to repay all of Romania's \$11 billion debt have led to perennial shortages of consumer goods.

Junblatt urges Hrawi to take faster action

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Druze leader Walid Junblatt urged Lebanese President Elias Hrawi Monday to move faster to prevent the partition of the embattled country along sectarian lines.

"The country is threatened more than ever. Partition is being conspired in Lebanon... the fate of the country is at stake," he told Beirut's independent Al Nahar newspaper.

Junblatt, head of the Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and minister of public works in Hrawi's cabinet, complained that the government had not devised a way to resolve the crisis with defiant Christian army general Michel Aoun.

"We must turn the government into a war or emergency cabinet to head or contain partition," he said.

Hrawi was elected last month under terms of an Arab League peace plan, but Aoun who controls the Christian enclave including east Beirut does not recognise him as Lebanon's legitimate leader.

Junblatt, who criticised the plan because it did not provide

for an immediate end to Lebanon's confessional political system, said the pact was effectively dead because of Aoun's refusal to support it.

He also lashed out at the Vatican, accusing it of supporting Lebanon's partition to set up a "Christian state."

He said Pope John Paul declined last week to keep Arab peace mediators seeking the Vatican's influence over Aoun to end the crisis. "The Pope's refusal dealt a blow to Arab states," he said.

Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi discussed efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Sunday, Iraq's INA news agency said.

It said Brahimi briefed Aziz on talks in Paris earlier this month between French officials and Arab foreign ministers mediating in Lebanon's 14-year-old war.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Algeria held talks in Baghdad last week with President Saddam Hussein.

Iraq has given backing in the past to Aoun.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
15:50	News summary in Arabic
16:00	Local programme
16:10	Agribusiness programme
16:15	Programme review
16:20	News in Arabic
16:25	Arabic series
16:30	Programme review
16:35	Local programme
16:40	News in Arabic
16:45	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
16:50	La Chasse
17:00	News in French
17:10	Aujourd'hui En Jordanie
17:20	News in Hebrew
17:30	Different world
17:40	Panorama
17:50	News in English
22:20	Hunter

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithat Tel. 810740.	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terranova Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625341.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775264.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
American International Church Tel. 685326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 649552.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and windy with southerly moderate to fresh easterly dust in the eastern and southern regions. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Amman	Min./max. temp. 4/17
Aqaba	10/23
Jericho	3/12
Jordan Valley	11/22
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Quta	675480
Dr. Saleem Al Khayyat	791880
Dr. Khalid Mu'adi	743500
Dr. Fayez Jabroua	624077
Firdous pharmacy	661972
Firdous pharmacy	778336
Al Azzam pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	638730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shawabeh pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Ahmad Al Naqout	(—)
Al Sharaa' pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Mubashir Al Hijawi	(—)
Khalaf pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630441
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Highway Police	773121
Traffic Police	849402
Public Security Department	630321
Police Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	121
(directory assistance)	010230
Overseas Calls	010230
Civilian Amman Telephone	623101
Reprints	623101
Abdallah Telephone Reprints	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	773111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	634361
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	06-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Abbas Maternity, J. Amn.	644412
Jabal Amman Maternity	622662
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmoual	664717/4
Shmoual Hospital	669131
Al-Mudhar Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abilali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abilali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mudhar	777101/5
Al-Basheir, J. Ashraf	775117/2
Army, Marba	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	022403/5
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)910771
Im. Sina Hospital	(09)586732
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)773555
Good Shepherd Hospital	(02)772775
Im. Al-Nafies Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(06)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
04:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:15	Damascus (RJ)
05:19	Jeddah (RJ)
05:15	Aqaba (RJ)
05:30	Cairo (RJ)
05:35	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
05:35	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:40	Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
15:45	Montreal, New York (RJ)
17:40	Baghdad (RJ)
17:25	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:40	Tripoli (RJ)
19:45	Belgrade, Budapest (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
11:30	Kuwait (KU)
13:45	Cairo (MS)
15:40	Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
15:45	Dubai (AZ)
16:30	Dubai (EK)
MARKET PRICES	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
16:30	Kuwait (KU)
12:20	Cairo (MS)
13:15	Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
13:45	Dubai (AZ)
17:40	Baghdad (RJ)
19:40	Tripoli (RJ)
19:45	Belgrade, Budapest (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:40	Aqaba (RJ)
07:40	Tripoli (RJ)
08:15	Vietnam, Chicago (RJ)
11:45	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:40	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50	Frankfurt, London (RJ)
13:40	Baghdad (RJ)
15:40	Ku

Badran to present policy statement to Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran will present his government's policy statement Tuesday to the Lower House of Parliament to win a vote of confidence.

The parliament session which is to be chaired by House Speaker Sulaiman Arar will later decide on a date to debate the government's policy statement before voting.

The House's Foreign Affairs Committee Monday held a session to review foreign policy affairs. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the committee members had a general discussion of the political developments in the Middle East region and Jordan's national role with regards to these developments.

Petra said that the committee, which is chaired by Mr. Taher Al Masri, a former foreign minister, will continue its meetings in the coming week to work out a framework for its function within the context of parliament.

Another committee, a committee which contests various government policies, Monday elected Nayer Al Hadid as chairman and Faris Al Nabulsi as the committee's rapporteur.

JWA celebrates return to life

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Abdul Rahim Omar, the founding president of the Jordanian Writers' Association (JWA), Monday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Minister of Culture Khaled Al-Karak for their support of the JWA during the ordeal it passed through under a government decision which dissolved it in 1987.

During a celebration the JWA held at a temporary office situated at the Professional Union Building in Amman, speeches were made hailing the JWA members and lauding the government's decision to revoke the 1987 decision and to reactivate the JWA.

Upper House of Parliament member Hani Ayyesh called for democracy, atmospheres to prevail at universities, schools, and all other institutions. He also urged citizens to prepare themselves for this "wonderful atmosphere." He also called for the preservation of democracy through respect for others' opinions.

Jordan Press Association President Hashem Khreisat said the government's decision to rescind the order to dissolve the JWA "provides joyful atmosphere to all the press family."

"We celebrate this decision after the reversing of the Economic Security Committee decision on the press," he noted.

Novelist Salem Nahas described the government measure as a step toward democracy. He congratulated all JWA members, "who were firm in defending the JWA's sound positions."

The gathering observed a one-minute silence in memory of late JWA member Galeb Halazah, who passed away in Damascus after spending 32 years away from Jordan.



Badran receives representatives from Ma'an

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing bedouin tribes in the Ma'an Governorate called on Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday and congratulated him on his appointment. Speakers at the meeting, which was attended by Parliament Speaker Sulaiman Arar, voiced their allegiance to the Hashemite throne and their total support for the government. The prime minister thanked the visitors and expressed his appreciation of the Ma'an citizens' feelings and support for his government (Petra photo).

Faqir chairs meeting on pilgrimage

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir Monday chaired a meeting at his office to discuss issues pertaining to the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

He announced that the Ministry of Awqaf, which is responsible for the transportation of Muslim pilgrims to and from Mecca, announced that it will set up a national company to be charged with the whole process of transportation of pilgrims and their accommodation in Medina and Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, during the pilgrimage season.

The projected company will be charged with conducting essential services for the pilgrims and will be responsible to the Ministry of

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Faqir added.

According to the minister, a general meeting will be held in Amman Thursday grouping ministry representatives and those of the various transport companies to look into matters related to the transportation and accommodation of pilgrims until the projected company has been formed.

In the past year, nearly 15,000 pilgrims from Jordan made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Among those attending the meeting at the Ministry of Awqaf Monday was the ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel.



Ali Al Faqir

Court rescinds decision to retire professor and ministry official

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Court of Justice in Jordan has rescinded a decision taken earlier by the military governor to remove Dr. Hammam Sa'id from his post as professor at the University of Jordan.

The court also cancelled an earlier decision by the military governor terminating the services of Dr. Yousef Al Hajjajab from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Both decisions were taken by

the former military governor who is also the prime minister.

The military governor normally endorses verdicts and sentences issued by the military court since the country is still under martial law rule which has been in existence since the 1967 Middle East war.

The Lower House of Parliament in its reply to a speech from the throne demanded that the martial law be scrapped, and Prime Minister Mudar Badran has promised that the govern-

ment will re-examine the law before taking any steps in that direction.

But since taking office, Badran has reversed a number of decisions taken by the former administration.

The new government ordered the release of political detainees, the return of seized passports, reactivated the Jordan Writers Association (JWA) and returned the previous boards of directors of Jordan's daily newspapers.

Comoros envoy receives Jordan's gift of medicine

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's gift of medicine to the Comoros Islands is a reaffirmation of the close ties between the two member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and underlines the common Arab features that bind them, according to a senior diplomat from the Indian Ocean island.

"My visit to Jordan also afforded me the opportunity to explain to Jordanian officials the recent developments in my country and the difficult times we went through," said Ibrahim Abdullah Ibrahim, the Indian Ocean island's ambassador to Egypt who was visiting Jordan.

Ibrahim, speaking to the Jordan Times shortly before his departure after meeting with senior officials and accepting the Jordanian gift, briefly outlined the events that followed the assassination of President Ahmad Abdallah earlier this month and the present situation in the country.

"What happened was not a coup, rather a blackmail and terrorism operation, after which the president was shot dead by the 50 mercenaries that have been in the country since 12 years," he said.

"Abdallah is believed to have been killed by Bob Denard, a French mercenary who helped him attain power, but Denard has said that a bodyguard shot the president."

According to Ibrahim, the motive behind the assassination was

an attempt by the mercenaries to block the application of the results of a plebiscite granting the president a third term.

"This would have enabled the president to continue liberating the rest of the Comoros Islands that are still under French management, and the continuation of the process of economic and social development in the islands," Ibrahim was quoted as saying to the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab.

"Consequently, the state started taking steps to deport them from the country since it no longer needed their services," Ibrahim said to the Jordan Times.

"But they started pressing the president, and after heated negotiations they insisted on staying. But the president stood firm on his position, so they assassinated him," he said.

The constitution of the Comoros Islands states that when the presidential post is vacant, the deputy president who is the head of the Supreme Court rules until a new president is elected within 40 days.

Defence agreements between the Comoros Islands and France

imply that France should intervene when the islands are threatened by external invasion or danger. "So French troops entered the country and are currently helping in keeping peace and order," Ibrahim said.

Adding: "Of course they are there only temporarily and they have to withdraw before a new president is elected on Jan. 14, 1990."

On the latest developments in his country Ibrahim said that the mercenaries were deported from the islands last Thursday, and since then things are going back to normal.

On the diplomatic relations between Jordan and the Comoros Islands, Ibrahim said that they will be upgraded in the level of ambassadors. "It has been discussed with the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it is soon to be officially announced," he said.

Ibrahim met Monday with the Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan prior to his departure, during which the two officials discussed ways to enhance educational, scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

He also met with the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir and discussed means of implementing the OIC resolutions regarding the support of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, in addition to finding ways to enhance the relations between Jordan and the Comoros Islands.

Committee charged with probing Yarmouk clashes holds 1st meeting

IRBID (J.T.) — A newly formed parliamentary committee, charged with investigating the recent student clashes at Yarmouk University, held its first meeting Monday to work out a plan for its work, and elected Fares Al Nabulsi as its chairman.

The move followed Sunday's announcement that 13 people were detained for questioning over the affair which occurred last Wednesday.

Parliament members Saturday demanded that the committee be formed so that full investigation can be conducted and responsible elements are punished for their action.

The clashes, according to a university spokesman took place inside and outside the university compound.

He said that students attacked one another following the end of a week-long exhibition depicting

the Palestinian intifada held in the campus.

Addressing the Parliament session Saturday, Prime Minister Mudar Badran denied earlier reports that there were injuries among the students involved in the fighting, but, he said, ele-

ments responsible for the event will be identified in due course and punished.

The prime minister and the deputies who spoke during the session strongly condemned the incident and emphasised the need for maintaining national unity.

Fuheid urges joint Arab efforts to combat crime

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Fadel Al Fuheid Monday called for mobilising efforts of officials in all Arab countries to fight crime and forestall its destructive impacts on our societies.

Delivering a speech during the PSD's celebrations of the Arab Police Day, Fuheid said this anniversary embodies the import-

ance of joint Arab action and expresses the need for genuine cooperation to attain further security and stability for Arab citizens.

Fuheid also paid tribute to the assistance Jordanian citizens present to security men in combating crime and expressed appreciation for the sincere efforts PSD officers exert to entrench security in Jordan.

Regional seminar on youth, health development opens in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 18 Arab countries gathered in Amman Monday for a six-day seminar on youth and health development in the Near East region.

The seminar, organised by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Ministries of Health and Youth in Jordan will dwell on the contribution of youth organisations in the development of

community health and will look into means of encouraging Arab youth to participate in this fields.

Addressing the opening session was Health Minister Mohammad Adoud Al Zaben who pointed out that the youth sector forms 20 per cent of the total population of the Arab World, and for this reason they ought to be the focus of attention to contribute to solve health issues.

The minister paid tribute to

WHO and UNICEF for their contributions in promoting health environment in the Developing World.

There were other speeches from regional directors of the two U.N. organisations who called for well defined programmes to involve the youth in health activities.

Several working papers will be reviewed by the delegates who represent various youth organisations.

Abbas Nahleh displays exotic golden works

By Nelli Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition hall of the Royal Cultural Centre looked more like Ali Baba's cave as it housed the exhibition of Abbas Nahleh, a Lebanese artist who concentrates primarily on Arabic calligraphy, fits it into Islamic-style frames, all in raised polyester relief-work covered with goldleaf and silver and a few colours that serve to enhance the romantic exoticism of his works.

In some of his works he uses the antique Egypto-Roman emblem of a sun disk within a triumphal wreath or within the wings of a deity. In any case, the chalice form is almost always maintained, starting from the centre below swelling out only to embrace intricate designs, arabesques, stylised animals etc. The use of this antique emblem is very much in line Art Nouveau design at the beginning of this century. In fact, one of his works, called "Dancing Swans" portrays herons within a golden circle.

A number of textures are used to fill the background, a creased application of goldleaf, raised surface decorations and a most exotic texture created through the dripping technique, where drops of one metallic colour fall on others and form orecles. All these contribute to an antiquated texture which is finally worked up to a

metallic sheen often incorporating tual effects of colour.

A relief of a horse with his neck pulled back in strong contraposto (counterpoint) is juxtaposed over a grid of geometric Islamic design. All this is embraced by a couple of "Wings of Horus" covered with a patina of gold and silver. It would have been more appreciated if the elongation and thrust of the neck would have left a better studied musculature below. The weakness of anatomical research and study of movement rids this elaborate relief, which should have taken hours of work, of its strength.

Art Review

A peacock within a more pronouncedly Pharaonic wing formation imposes the use of turquoise enamel colour getting us even closer to Egypt. Within the wings a texture reminiscent of Sarma, or Turkish embroidery is exquisitely beautiful. But the bird's feathers end in a swirling tail that seems to be too heavy and retains the eye which in a work of art should move around the canvas, especially covering major points such as the bird's head which, in this case, bears subdued colour and is closer in tone to the decorative background than to the massive golden tail which includes

strongly delineated flat forms. Nahleh attempted, very successfully, to transpire his raised surfaces to clay jars or to wooden objects such as a wooden chest or a mirror. Putting both calligraphy and arabesque interlace within a given frame, makes the whole work well contained and in perfect balance.

To someone who sees this style for the first time (provided it fits his taste), this would be a very impressive exhibition. But to fans of his brother and tutor the famous Lebanese artist Wajih Nahleh, these works are almost replicas of the 1960-70 works of his brother.

That might have been forgiven, had he not followed his brother's later style of putting various knobs of colour on the palette knife and swirling them around to form variegated multicoloured impressions, bits of calligraphy, or even figures. One figure of a woman has her face decorated with floral intertwining in the manner of Sam Assaid, a popular technique which has been extensively used.

Had the works of Abbas Nahleh been more original in their conception or at least in developing a given idea, they would have received great acclaim. To most trained eyes they are little more than craft decorations, but very good ones at that.



Islamic Calligraphy by Abbas Nahleh on display at the Royal Cultural Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- Contemporary Islamic fine arts exhibition by Abbas Nahleh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.
- A plastic art exhibition by Arji Al Hamad and Ibrahim Nabulsi at the University of Jordan.

LECTURE

- A lecture entitled "seismicity and seismic risk in Jordan" by Dr. Zuhair Al Issa at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- A Soviet documentary entitled "protecting the surrounding environment" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- A play entitled Christmas Carols at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- A play entitled House Guest at Amman Plaza Hotel — 9:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Christmas gifts

ONE of the last decisions that the U.S. Congress has adopted before recessing for Christmas and the new year was to appropriate additional military and economic aid to Israel to the tune of \$666 million. That amount is of course over and above the \$3 billion of annual aid to Israel. The Arab World and people can only view this additional aid to Israel as a last minute Christmas bonus for good behaviour. What adds insult to injury is the fact that Israel is no Christian country and under normal rules and practices does not even qualify for Christmas gifts. But, of course, Israel is no normal protégé of Washington and what applies to the rest of mankind does not apply to it.

What concerns the Arabs most is why and what Israel has done lately to qualify for that gratuity. One is at pains to discern just one special magnificent deed that Tel Aviv has contributed to qualify as a Good Samaritan and receive such a bounty on the occasion of the holiest of the holy days of Christianity. Is it conceivable that Israel's lip service to the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five elastic points that made her a hero worthy of a rapid reward? Why haven't all the Arab parties, which blessed and welcomed the Baker initiative, received any Christmas gifts as well. Is it not enough that Israel's conditional acceptance of the Baker plan is tactical, must it also be rewarded for its duplicity?

The Arab World is angered and must be angered by Washington's continuous favoured treatment of Israel and has the right to ask many questions about the real intents and purposes of the Baker initiative. Above all, is the latest initiative, like all those that preceded it, simply to serve as some kind of opium to sedate the Arab peoples into believing that there is something out there when in fact there is nothing? Israel has successfully taken the entire world, especially the Arab World, on many rides in the past and present by pretending to accept the various plans and proposals put forward by mankind to put in motion one kind of peace initiative or another. Now, at last, the Arab peoples are wide awake and have become immune to the various dosages of opium administered to them in every season of the year in a seemingly endless cycle. The Arabs are fast losing patience and are calling for clear positions and unambiguous responses from all the parties and intermediaries. Above all they would like the year 1990 to be the decisive year for determining which way the so-called peace process is heading. Meanwhile they would appreciate it very much if the U.S. would suspend giving Israel so many goodies until Israel makes clear what its real intentions are to the satisfaction of all sides. Otherwise, the granting of normal aid and over the counter aid must be construed as hostile acts and policies against the entire Arab peoples and governments.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday praised the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for their continued endeavours to strengthen their group economically and politically in the face of various groupings now being formed around the world. The paper said that any strength of any group within the Arab World is bound to benefit the whole Arab Nation. We are not only proud of the measures being taken by the GCC states which started their meetings Monday to plan for the coming decade, but we are also deeply gratified for Saudi Arabia and its sister states for their assistance to Jordan at a time when the Kingdom was in bad economic situation, the paper noted. It said the GCC states had set a good example for the rest of the Arab countries and their efforts to unite had inspired the rest of the Arab World to embark on forming economic groupings which would ultimately lead to unity among the Arab countries. The paper also noted that with the creation of the GCC and the Arab Cooperation Council as well as the Maghreb Union one can only feel optimistic about the future of the Arab World in the coming decade.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday urges the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to follow up the democratisation process with the release of political prisoners from the Swaga prison south of Amman. Bakri Kassar says that the prison still houses 65 political prisoners who were convicted for their ideological beliefs and there are others who are detained now and awaiting trial for similar charges. The writer says some of the Swaga prisoners have spent 18 or 16 years in jail and it is time for the government to contemplate setting them free in the open and democratic atmosphere the country is living now. The free and democratic atmosphere prevailing in Jordan at present will no doubt prompt the government to take a very bold step and release those jailed for their affiliation to various political parties which are no longer banned in the Kingdom, says the writer. The writer refers to the government's earlier decisions to release passports, 'resurrect' the Jordan Writers Association and other measures as very constructive steps in the march for democratic rule, and expresses hope that the government will now turn its attention to those jailed or detained for political or ideological reasons, and set them free.

Al Dustour daily said that public freedom in Jordan has been enhanced lately with the government's measures which were welcomed by all sectors and political factions. The release of the seized passports, the setting free of detained persons and the resurrection of the Jordan Writers Association were very constructive steps leading to democratic life and in line with the new and very positive atmosphere in the Kingdom, the paper noted. But it said that the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran seems aiming to crown such positive measures by scrapping the martial rule in Jordan, thus completing a series of measures that can only bolster the meaning of democracy in the country. The paper paid tribute to Mr. Badran for his wisdom and courageous stand which, it said, is helping to introduce a real qualitative transformation in Jordanian people's lives.

U.S.-British relationship in flux as world order changes

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States has tried hard to reassure Britain that it is not being eclipsed by West Germany as the main partner of U.S. European policy, but analysts say the "special relationship" could be cooling.

The dizzying political upheaval in Eastern Europe, and the debate over German reunification, has necessarily placed the American strategic focus squarely on the Germans, West and East, U.S. officials and other experts say.

West Germany, home to 300,000 U.S. troops as NATO's frontline against the Warsaw

Pact, has long been a European financial centre. Now, Washington views it as crucial to managing political change.

"I don't have the impression that Britain and the United States are not dealing with each other as partners," said Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a former State Department official who now is with the Brookings Institution, a liberal think tank.

"It's just that the focus has to be on Germany because they are so directly involved (in the European reordering) and it's a tricky political situation... Germany is a concern to everyone."

Some experts say the realignment under way in Europe may lessen the emphasis on the U.S.-British bilateral relationship.

"U.S. foreign policy is changing, as is British foreign policy," one U.S. official said.

"British foreign policy will be increasingly tied, whether Mrs. Thatcher likes it or not, to the European Community. The question is whether we and the British want to continue to place as much emphasis on bilateral relations as we do now," he said.

The two shared a rapport and an ideological anti-Communist fervour. Thatcher saw herself as first among alliance equals.

British diplomats say Reagan's successor, President George Bush, telephones Thatcher often. She visited him at the Camp David presidential retreat outside Washington ahead of his first summit with Soviet leader

relationships, along with Germany, Japan, Canada and Mexico."

A new look at U.S.-British ties was fanned by Britain's Fleet Street press, which saw a post-summit Bush speech urging NATO to quicken the pace of European integration and commit itself to deep arms cuts as a sign of a rift with Thatcher.

She has been less than enthusiastic about both those ideas.

The media speculation prompted Bush to call Thatcher and assure her the "special relationship" was intact. Secretary of State James Baker hastily rearranged his five-day European trip last week to include a London visit with Thatcher.

Now there is a new source of friction: London's decision to re-

patriate Vietnamese refugees forcibly from Hong Kong.

U.S. and British officials admit they have tried to play down the dispute but acknowledge fundamental differences. The White House branded London's policy unacceptable, which in the Anglo-American context constitutes strong disapproval.

All this adds up to a relationship that will remain fundamentally close while Washington's emphasis shifts quietly towards a more even-handed approach to Europe.

"American-British relations have shifted over a long time (and) I guess this shift will continue. But I believe there's a baseline (and) I don't think the relationship will go beyond that," Brookings's Sonnenfeldt said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

During the eight years of Ronald Reagan's presidency, there was a perception of exceptional U.S.-British closeness, in large measure because of the personal ties between the U.S. leader and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Mikhail Gorbachev.

But Sonnenfeldt says there is no question that Bush's relationship with Thatcher is cooler. Added a U.S. official: "I think the Bush administration will see the Anglo-American relationship as one of several special rela-

Peace movement seeks new role as cold war thaws

By Nicholas Doughy
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Remember the thousands who marched against the nuclear missiles in Europe and were dismissed by most Western governments as idealistic dreamers?

What are they doing now that their dreams are turning into reality and the cold war is fading into history?

The peace movement, like the military and pro-nuclear establishment it has fought for years, is seeking a new role.

"We are in a period where the symbols of war are falling all around," said Sylvie Mantrant, international coordinator for the European Nuclear Disarmament Convention.

"The Western peace move-

ments know we must reassess our goals and methods of campaigning," said Meg Beresford, secretary-general of Britain's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). "People are no longer so afraid of nuclear war, it is harder for us to get our message across."

Both women were present at a meeting of peace campaigners in Brussels last month which found fresh hope in the political reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

"We are going to be able to work with people in countries like East Germany, Poland or Czechoslovakia quite openly now," Beresford told Reuters. "Before, we had to keep those contacts pretty secret."

The tide of "people power" behind what was once the iron curtain carries with it many who would like to see all

nuclear weapons scrapped and huge cuts in military spending.

"Some of those people, in the reform movements, may well end up in government," said Jane Mayes, a British representative for European nuclear disarmament. "That gives us fantastic opportunities for cooperation," she said.

The heady days of the early 1980s, when thousands marched across Western Europe to protest against the deployment of cruise and medium-range missiles by NATO, have gone.

A 1987 superpower treaty provided for the scrapping of those missiles and deprived the peace movement of obvious protest targets, such as the Greenham Common airbase in southern England where cruise missiles were

stored.

Now East and West are talking in Vienna about major reductions in conventional weapons and there is the prospect of treaties next year that could halve the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals and cut chemical weapons stocks.

But those who campaign for an end to nuclear weaponry emphatically reject suggestions that history has passed them by, or that the 16-nation NATO alliance has been proved right in its strategy of maintaining military strength.

"The arguments of the military have no validity. NATO and the 'hawks' are making no real changes," said Beresford.

"We would all like to go home and just look after our gardens, but the military programmes are

continuing... had it not been for the peace movement's activities in the early 1980s, none of these changes would have been achieved."

But the peace movement is less clear on the details of how it can help reshape the map of Europe.

The Brussels meeting, just a few miles down the road from NATO headquarters, was called to organise a unique international peace conference to be held next summer.

The venue will be a large ferry that will travel between Helsinki in neutral Finland and Tallin in the Soviet Union — a symbolic bridging of East and West.

"We are still working out the details of how the movement can take a broader approach and the convention next summer will deal

with that," said Beresford. Some want to bring current environmental questions more into the peace movement as a way of revitalising it.

Other campaigners want to work towards creating a federal, neutral, nuclear-free Europe which would include other countries beyond the 12-member European Community.

"In changing times, we have an enormous contribution to make to helping build East-West relations," said Mantrant.

"We must learn to be loyal, neither to East nor West nor to particular countries, but to ourselves. We must try to give all citizens the choice about how the relationship between European peoples should develop," she said.

Egypt likely to crack down on militants after murder bid

By John Fullerton
Reuter

CAIRO — Egypt is likely to launch a fresh crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists after a botched attempt on Saturday to kill hardline Interior Minister Zaki Badr, analysts and diplomats said Sunday.

Asked whether a roundup of outlawed opponents of President Hosni Mubarak's government was likely, political commentator Tahseen Bashir replied: "definitely."

A Western diplomat told Reuters: "this (attack) could lead to a new wave of arrests."

A pickup truck carrying explosives blew up 30 metres from Badr's motorcade in Cairo Saturday morning but the minister was not hurt.

"It was not an accident. It was an attack," one interior ministry source said.

Badr, 53, a former police general, is Mubarak's most outspoken and unequivocal adver-

sary of Muslim militancy.

"Killing, amputation and the use of live ammunition are the only methods against those who use terrorism as their means," he told the Paris-based Al Watan Al Arabi newspaper last February.

Islamic militants pose the most serious domestic threat to Mubarak and anti-government violence in the past has prompted security sweeps to round up dissidents.

Some analysts say Badr's role as the government's strongarm allows Mubarak to press ahead with attempts at democratisation, but others accuse the minister of aggravating dissent.

Badr has ordered the arrest of thousands of people in what is widely regarded as the Arab World's most open society.

Most militants have since been freed without being charged, but civil rights workers say scores are still held under special emergency powers introduced after Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, was shot dead by religious zealots in 1981.

Civil rights groups periodically accuse Badr's security forces of beating or torturing prisoners.

Witnesses said the truck used in Saturday's attack was burned out in the blast, but the amount of explosives used appeared to be relatively small.

While explosives are commonly used by many underground groups in the Middle East, they are the exception rather than the rule in Egypt.

Firearms were used in attempts to kill two former Egyptian interior ministers in 1987. Hassan Abu Basha was seriously injured while Nabawi Ismail escaped unhurt.

The interior ministry said a man was arrested running from the scene of Saturday's attack. It said he carried false identity papers issued in Fayoum, an oasis town southwest of Cairo known as a stronghold of Islamic militants.

The papers identified the suspect as a 24-year-old student, Youssef Hassan Mahmoud, and

police said they were trying to establish whether he was working alone or was backed by any clandestine organisation.

Analysts said the attempt on Badr's life might be linked to a clash between fundamentalist students and police in the central Egyptian city of Assiut last Monday.

Badr ordered the arrest of 300 Muslim hardliners after the skirmishes in which several protesters and policemen were hurt. He said some of the demonstrators were armed with petrol bombs, sticks and knives.

Badr was appointed interior minister after riots by police conscripts in 1986. He joined a cabinet which had developed a relatively open political system with six political parties and several opposition newspapers and magazines.

Badr has said he has the heart of a wolf and brains like shoes — an Arabic phrase meaning that he is hard-headed or stubborn.

The strength, weakness of democracy

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The government's efforts to repair the damage wrought by the recent failed coup have been largely rhetorical, partly because of a fragmented political system designed to prevent rather than encourage decisive presidential rule.

It is widely assumed here that President Corason Aquino must make sweeping changes in her administration and style of leadership if the nation is to recover from the political, economic and social damage brought on by the Dec. 1-9 military mutiny that nearly ousted her.

More than a week after the last of the rebels surrendered, there has been no cabinet change nor any announcement of major shifts in domestic policy.

But the Philippine political system, which Mrs. Aquino proudly describes as a "restored democracy," is designed not for speed, but to divide power after 20 years of strongman rule under the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

For better or worse, the Aquino administration and the electorate it represents are discovering what that entails in time of crisis.

In a bid to restore public confidence, Mrs. Aquino declared on Dec. 6 a state of national emergency. Ten days after the announcement, the emergency exists in name only because congress has not ratified the final version of a bill spelling out what new powers she can wield.

On Monday, the senate and house of representatives took up a compromise version worked out by a legislative conference committee last week.

But the compromise formula grants few new powers beyond price controls, state recovery of public utilities and recovery of "loose firearms."

Congress also amended the original proposal to require adherence to the constitution, language that virtually guarantees court challenges once the government begins implementing the bill.

For example, the compromise bill does not allow the government to arrest suspects without warrants or circumvent other legal restraints. Congress watered down proposed curbs on the right to strike, media reporting and powers of search and seizure.

Even with the changes, the emergency powers bill has stirred considerable adverse comment among a people with hiner memories of martial law, which Marcos imposed from 1972 until 1981.

"We see a repeat of the Marcos

regime," wrote columnist Neal Gomez in the Philippine Daily Globe. "Marcos refused to heed appeals for reform. Instead, he declared a state of emergency, then imposed martial law... now that housewife (Aquino) is turning out to be another Marcos."

In the heady days after the 1986 "people power revolution" that toppled the Marcos administration, Mrs. Aquino appointed a commission to draft a new constitution to guarantee no more one-man rule.

The commission restored the U.S.-style bicameral legislature precisely because Marcos had been successful in transforming the single-house national assembly into a rubber-stamp chamber.

Last week, the system worked as planned: Congress refused to give the administration everything it wanted.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The constitutional system limits the Philippine government's emergency options to a far greater extent than those in place in Malaysia, Singapore and elsewhere in Asia.

The president is constitutionally empowered to declare a state of emergency "and under reasonable terms... temporarily take over or direct the operations of any privately owned public utility or business affected by the public interest."

No other powers were cited in the constitution.

Even if she had declared martial law, Mrs. Aquino would hardly have a free legal hand unless she took the dangerous political step of scrapping her own constitution entirely.

For example, the constitution stipulates that martial law "does not suspend the operation of the constitution" nor the functioning of congress and the civilian courts.

She could order arrest without warrants for 60 days, but congress is empowered to overrule the decree after 48 hours.

Mrs. Aquino does retain the power to dismiss her cabinet which had been widely criticised as ineffective months before the coup attempt.

Presidential staff sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say Mrs. Aquino is preparing to drop some cabinet members but plans no massive shakeup because she believes much of the criticism is unfair.

She has also delayed such a move to avoid appearing to have bowed to demands of the mutineers, whom she has dismissed as "evil men" simply seeking "to grab power."

Taiwanese gain voice as intellectuals probe past

By John Pomfret
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Like a pack of angry archaeologists, artists and intellectuals in Taiwan are excavating the dark past of the Nationalist government. Their efforts are giving a new voice and visibility to the often-suppressed native Taiwanese.

Movies, court cases, a radio drama and the recent election campaign have created a flood of pressure on this island of 20 million to confront its past. The trend also has created an outlet for native Taiwanese, who constitute 85 per cent of the population but have had scant political influence since 1949, when the Nationalist Party seized power in Taiwan after losing a civil war to the Communists in mainland China.

"We are awakening after a long sleep," says Antonio Chiang, editor of the prestigious Journalist magazine. "We are finally learning who we are, where we came from."

Taiwanese always have regarded their rocky island as "the orphan of Asia," as a popular song goes. Since the 17th century, they have been ruled by Spaniards, Dutch, Japanese and Chinese from the mainland.

When the nationalists took power, they imposed the culture of the mainland on the little island. Mandarin Chinese replaced Taiwanese dialect in the classroom and students were fined if they spoke the local Patois. Taiwanese history was subsumed by Chinese history. Only fools or gangsters spoke Taiwanese on television.

"I don't know how many times my teacher made me stand with a board around my neck saying, 'I'll never speak Taiwanese again,'" said Chen Shui-Fien, a leading opposition politician. "The mainlanders made us feel like Taiwanese natives were second-class citizens."

A change came in 1987, when then President Chiang Ching-Kuo ended 38 years of martial law. Taiwan's astounding economic growth had created an increasingly sophisticated population that no longer tolerated harsh political repression.

The government relaxed its tight controls on the press, legalised opposition political parties and began tolerating some dissent.

The trend gained momentum in June, when Communist Chinese troops in Beijing crushed a pro-democracy movement. The tragedy in Tiananmen Square sparked Taiwanese to probe Nationalist abuses.

In October, "City of Sorrow," an award-winning film, opened in Taiwan to packed houses. The movie was the first to explore the massacre of Feb. 28, 1947, when Nationalist troops slaughtered tens of thousands of Taiwanese after clashes between island natives and mainland immigrants.

A deaf mute plays the central role and witnesses of the horrors — a powerful metaphor for Taiwan's intellectuals.

It is portrayal of a gangster clan, the movie probes the politically sensitive question of organised crime's influence over politics. Ironically, the film is reported to be backed by gangland

money.

A wildly popular radio drama also has its roots in Taiwan's past, focusing on the period of Japanese occupation from 1895 to 1945. Liao Tien-Ting is Taiwan's Robin Hood, who robs Japanese imperialists and gives to the poor.

The show draws thinly veiled parallels between Japan's occupation and Nationalist government domination in Taiwan. Its announcer has entered politics and is a strong supporter of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party.

Taiwan's recent election campaign, the first multiparty race in its history, also made use of the past and stirred feelings of self-identity for Taiwanese.

One successful candidate for the legislature, Yeh Chu-Lan, advocated independence from China, a sedition act under the constitution. Her victory gave voice to an undercurrent of support, especially among native Taiwanese, for cutting all ties with Beijing.

In the local political lexicon, independence means rejection of the Nationalist claim to be the legitimate government of mainland China as well as Taiwan.

Taiwanese folk songs filled the air at her rallies. A theatre troupe acted out scenes of alleged Nationalist brutality — the 1947 killings and the death of Yeh's husband, a dissident who immolated himself in April to escape police interrogation.

The troupe also portrayed scenes from a 1979 riot in the southern city of Kaohsiung.

On Dec. 10, 1979, tens of thousands of people demon-

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Features

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An environmental metamorphosis — a nightmare?

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Never before have nations been so closely bound together as we see today, exerting ever and cooperating towards solving one common cause in the growing environmental problems affecting us worldwide.

Environmentalists are no longer the only parties concerned with environment issues; politicians, industrialists, religious leaders and the layman are today or a long time ago, aware of the shift in the world's climate.

Dr. Abdul Latif Al-Hammad, Secretary General of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, says that "despite the awareness, decisions and shared opinions at an international level, human activities continue to change the composition of the atmosphere and earth."

To name just a few of environmental metamorphosis: climatic changes brought about by atmospheric pollution are evident; acid depositions cause forest and her damages; unplanned urban expansion is a major concern in the Arab World; depletion of resources is a nightmare for planners.

Climate change is not only a problem in itself, but it also leads to a great number of different problems. Hammad points out that rainfall and monsoon patterns could change so dramatically to the point of destroying agricultural activities worldwide. Although some countries would benefit from this change, their number is minimal and the majority of agriculture would be destroyed, Hammad said citing Egypt as an example as one of the many in the Arab World, let alone on a global level. Egypt has experienced a one-metre rise in sea level on the lowland which caused 15 per cent of the best arable land to flood. The area accommodates about 16 per cent of the population which accounts for 15 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Rise in sea level

Professor Chadwick from the Stockholm Environment Institute in England, attributes the rise in the global sea level to the rise in average annual temperature. "Sea-level rises involves numerous critical problems such as high tides which would penetrate

further inland causing floods," he says. The estimated rise in sea level would be between 30 centimetres and 1.5 metres by the middle of next century he estimated. Sea-level rise also involves erosion of beaches and coastal margins, land-use changes, loss of wetlands, damage to coastal structures and increasing difficulties in water management.

Chadwick said that greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide (NOX), Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) emissions, "will give rise to atmospheric concentrations of these gases which will cause a global climatic warming," he said.

One of the factors damaging to forests are the depositions of sulphur dioxide and NOX and their transformation products. Dr. Abdul Bar Al-Gain, director general of the Protection of Environment and Meteorological Department in Saudi Arabia, pointed out that carbon dioxide concentrations are increasing at such a rate that if we go ahead with a business-as-usual policy then the atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide will double by next century. "Al-Gain added that this would result in a

two degree Centigrade average global warming of the earth's atmosphere from carbon dioxide alone.

Other gases affecting global warming are concentrations of greenhouse gases which would add another two degrees Centigrade to the earth's atmosphere. "Thus, by early next century, mankind is facing the possibility of living in an environment that is on average four degree Centigrade warmer," Al-Gain warned.

Acid rain

Another problem affecting the world and which is a major concern in Europe is acid rain. Acid rain is transformed from fossil fuels, especially coals and oils. Chadwick explained that during combustion, fossil fuels are converted to sulphur. Oxides of nitrogen are also emitted from combustion of fuel in an atmosphere dominated by oxygen 90 per cent of "these transformation products undergo wet or dry depositions which are acidic in nature and damage wildlife and fresh water bodies," Chadwick explained.

Chadwick added that although an agreement reached on sulphur dioxide achieved an overall 30

per cent reduction of emissions. "The reduction is not enough to prevent damage or recover many ecosystems."

Taking a look at the Arab World, Hammad expressed concern over unplanned expansion of urban areas which contributes to environmental problem. According to Hammad, urban population has grown from 23 million to 105 million. Sixty per cent of the urban population are in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants.

Hammad added that destruction of valuable agricultural land is another dimension of urban growth. He pointed out an example that in Egypt, during the last

three decades, "more than 10 per cent of the nation's most productive farm land was lost to urban encroachment." Adding to that, "the immediate hinterland around Cairo, which used to be an agricultural area supplying the city with major food crops, has now disappeared."

Oil and gas

Hammad also spoke of the trend to switch from oil to gas. "Gas will become the main industrial utility fuel in the coming decades," according to Hammad. There is an increasing need to shift the demand away from oil in order to control pollution and a

great emphasis on developing the Arab countries to using gas resources because gas is the cleanest source of primary energy. Although this would pose problems for the producers and consumers owing to a change in production, Hammad said, "it is a process that must take place, and in the long run it would be beneficial to Arab oil producing countries because oil would undoubtedly last a longer time."

But there are already projects in the Arab region to link up the area with gas pipeline grids, according to Hammad. One pipeline would supply Algerian gas to Tunisia and Libya, while another

would transport Algerian gas to Spain through Morocco.

Such regional and global problems were some of the many points discussed in a recent environment and development seminar held in Amman. Conferences are continually taking place throughout the world bringing together the developed and developing countries to set out agendas of actions to be taken.

According to Hammad, global awareness has risen dramatically in the past two years. "But awareness is not enough in itself, we have to move to action and bring human societies together on a common cause."

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Faced with social turbulence and resurgent anti-Semitism, many thousands of Soviet Jews are emigrating to their spiritual home. Ian Black in Tel Aviv asks whether Israel, willing but hardly prepared for the influx, can cope.

The Jews are coming

ALERY and Ina and their children were visibly tired as they slipped into the Ministry of Immigration Absorption reception hall at Ben Gurion Airport. It had been a long, long journey from Odessa and although it was early 1 a.m. there were still many more official forms to fill in before their new life in Israel would begin.

Victoria, aged 12, made aeline for the reconstituted age juice and sandwiches prepared by a pair of stout volunteer ladies who arrived from Russia themselves a few years back, and 10-year-old Oleg was soon roaring about wildly on a plastic cushion on the playground.

There were about 100 of them refused to Sunday's evening flight from the historic town of Tel Aviv, unmistakably Soviet with their fur hats, rural wear, wintry clothes and subtle (though not quiet, mechanical submission to the first taste of Israeli days and bureaucracy.

Fair-haired Jews from Moscow were seen mingling with dark-skinned Georgians to read into Cyrillic slogans welcoming "a new era" and then sank down in rows of plastic chairs or gazed at the dramatic photograph of Jerusalem covering an entire wall.

Mr. Manna, a toothless old man from Leningrad, his double-breasted jacket adorned with the medals of a world war, looked dazed. At the little remained of the liturgical Hebrew he had studied before the October Revolution, but he is pleased to be leaving his troublesome Armenian and Georgian neighbours behind.

Dimitri Bogakovsky, a 36-year-old doctor from Kiev, was raptly happy. "I feel I have come home," he said. "I'm only sorry I didn't come to Israel 20 years ago."

Ina, a teacher, was in those who are cautious. "At the moment I say I wanted to come here and not to America," she smiled.

"What I'll be saying in a year's time I don't know."

Several flights like these, some originating from Budapest and Vienna, are expected to arrive at Ben Gurion every day. The influx of Soviet Jewish emigrants and the vast changes that Mikhail Gorbachev's policies have wrought in their homeland, the economic and political uncertainties of the former Soviet Union, and the rise of the Caspian have raised the spectre of anti-Semitism, never far below the surface of Soviet life. Under glasnost and perestroika, the last great untapped pool of world Jewry is on the move.

EXACT NUMBERS are unavailable; 2.5 to three million is accepted figure, though 70 per cent of cultural and religious repression, intermarriage and assimilation means that the real number — in Zionist terms those who qualify for automatic Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return — may be far higher. Turbulence at home, combined with an American decision to restrict Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union, mean that the pace of emigration is now expected almost exclusively at Israel. The challenge is immense, and no one is sure whether it can be met.

According to the latest projections, 100,000 Soviet Jews will arrive in Israel over the next

Jews are still awaiting visas to the U.S., are a disgrace. A thriving Jewish life in New York's Brighton Beach will not reinforce Israel. Freedom of choice is no longer on the agenda, especially now that American Jews have discovered that it is easier to raise money for absorbing Soviet Jews in Israel than it is for resettling them in the U.S. The Israeli government has been agonisingly slow to take up the challenge, although it has calculated that U.S.\$3 billion will be needed over three years for housing, job creation and other aspects of large-scale immigrant absorption.

The bureaucracy certainly needs streamlining: the immigrants are met initially by the Absorption Ministry, but once in the country many of their needs are looked after by the Jewish Agency, the semi-private organisation that dates back to the early years of Jewish settlement in Palestine.

The two bodies are often at loggerheads, and there are constant disputes over methods: are the newcomers best served by direct absorption — being given money and subsidies for their first year and then left to cope on their own, or by being placed in one of the 38 Jewish Agency absorption centres.

Learning Hebrew is a priority

for all, and places in the famous ulpan system are available at once. But even after six months of intensive study many other problems remain. A Soviet engineer who lost his job a decade ago after applying to emigrate needs to catch up. Doctors need to retrain for eight months. At the big Mevasseret absorption centre near Jerusalem, where there are 77 Russian families in different stages of acclimatisation, only half the breadwinners are working. Unskilled workers tend to do better than the professionals, enjoying the advantages of a free market.

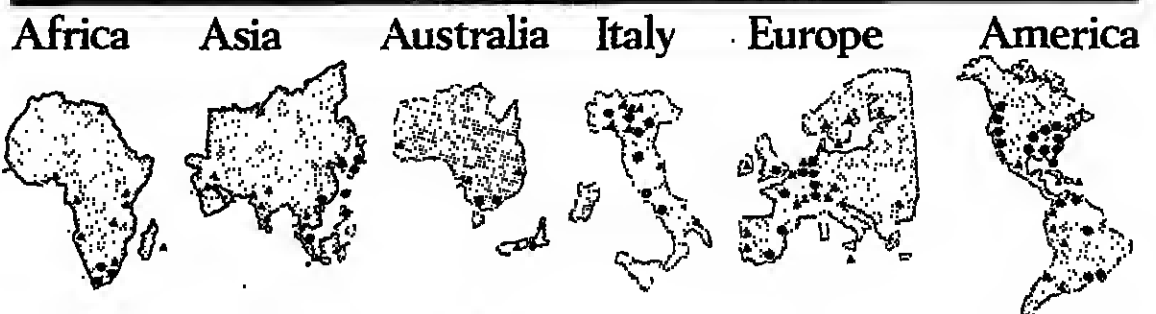
THE NEW ARRIVALS, like their predecessors, tend towards the right of the political spectrum. "Of course we thought about political problems, but everyone in Israel suffers from the same ones," says Igor, a railway engineer studying at the Mevasseret ulpan. "I'm content to go into the army, and I'm definitely against giving up territory to the Arabs."

The veterans are pleased, but accept that the newcomers are coming here less out of choice than of necessity. Haim Scheider, an economist who left Lithuania 10 years ago, has been unemployed for 18 months, but still has no regrets. — The Guardian

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Rising food import bill tops Egyptian worries

CAIRO (R) — Prime Minister Atef Sedki has warned that a soaring food import bill will strain Egypt's society and depressed economy.

"In the light of continuing increases in world prices of (food) imports, this ...will lead to ex-

remely serious economic and social consequences," Sedki told parliament.

In a rare economic policy statement, Sedki gave few details of how the government planned to pull Egypt, burdened with high foreign debt and an inefficient public sector, out of its economic depression.

Sedki said food imports cost Egypt \$1.43 billion in fiscal 1988-89, up from \$1.01 billion the year before, and were set to cost even more.

Egypt, the world's third largest importer of wheat, its staple diet, now has around 55 million people and the population increases by a million every seven months.

It imported seven million tonnes of wheat this year despite growing a bumper local crop of three million.

Sedki repeated a government pledge that economic reform would not hurt the poor.

Cairo, facing major economic changes could unleash social unrest, is resisting pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to speed up moves to a more liberal open economy.

In these negotiations (with the IMF), the government is committed not to accept programmes leading to increased pressure on the standard of living of low-income people," Sedki said.

An accord with the IMF would open the door to fresh foreign credit and investment that would help to invigorate the economy.

Sedki said Egypt's total civil debt, excluding military debt, was an estimated \$29.7 billion. He declined to give figures for military debt. The IMF has estimated overall debt at \$50 billion.

Egypt stopped most debt payments 18 months ago and must reach a deal with the IMF before it can reschedule them.

This month Cairo paid \$50 million to the United States to avoid triggering a U.S. law suspending new aid to countries failing more than a year behind on debt payments. A similar payments will have to be made every month.

France has also demanded repayment of some debt.

Sedki said that, of 115 industrial public sector companies, 20 were making losses. There were also losses by non-industrial companies and joint venture companies, he said.

Streamlining the public sector is a key aim of the government, but a reduction in subsidies would raise its losses even higher in the short-term.

Editor Said Sonbol, writing last week in Al Akhbar newspaper, said: "I expect that the opponents of updating the public sector will emerge victorious in the end, considering that (they) have successfully aborted all previous attempts."

'Gulf needs tariff pact to crack EC market'

MUSCAT (R) — Gulf Arab states must agree on a unified tariff policy if they are to have any hope of persuading the European Community (EC) to drop painful protective barriers against them, Gulf officials say.

A common tariff policy for the six nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which began their annual summit in Muscat Monday, is as important as their more dramatic political effort to prevent another Gulf war, analysts say.

Without a common policy, the GCC cannot present a unified position in difficult talks with Brussels over EC tariffs and quotas against GCC products, especially petrochemicals.

Ahead of the meeting of the rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, senior GCC officials for economic affairs Abdullah Al Quwaiz said the issue was particularly important.

Without agreement, it would be impossible to realise the full common market envisaged in the

GCC's 1981 founding pact, and it would complicate already long and complicated talks with the EC, said Quwaiz.

"Without a unified policy on customs tariffs, any dialogue between the EC and the GCC will not achieve results," Bahrain Development and Industry Minister Youssef Shirawi said in November.

The current EC tariff structure, coupled with collapsing oil prices in the 1980s, helped turn the balance of GCC trade with the EC from a \$35.6 billion surplus in 1981 to a deficit in the last three years averaging around \$5 billion a year.

EC products account for over 40 per cent of the GCC import market. The next biggest is Japan with over 15 per cent.

Omani Commerce and Industry Minister Salim bin Abdullah Al Ghazali said Sunday that differences in internal GCC industrial incentive policies would not hold up full implementation of the unified economic policy.

However, GCC officials said uneven economic development

within the GCC had inevitably led to a slower pace.

"We realised that we could not all suddenly start to compete equally. Some of us needed time to catch up," said one official.

The 1981 pact gives temporary exemption to any member due to local circumstances. Oman, for example, was allowed to protect its cement industry from other GCC imports, officials said.

At the other end of the scale, the mercantile-minded United Arab Emirates has pressed for lower tariffs.

The unified agreement envisaged a five per cent minimum tariff.

The creation of a value-added petrochemical industry fed from their own crude production is at the heart of all six states' plans for industrial development and diversification.

The EC, which imposes 12 to 14 per cent duty on all but a small quota of GCC petrochemicals, fears that ending tariffs would lead to cheap Gulf imports flooding the market.

France raises key lending rates

PARIS (R) — Less than a week after deciding to dismantle its last remaining currency controls, France Monday moved to stave off a run on the franc by raising two key lending rates.

The Bank of France said its intervention and emergency funding rates would both rise by half a percentage point to 10 per cent and 10.75 per cent respectively, effective at Monday's government securities repurchase tender.

The finance ministry said the

increase was aimed at supporting the value of the franc and keeping savings levels high enough to meet credit demand.

"The persistence of domestic savings too low to meet continued strong short-term credit demand leads us to remain vigilant," it said in a statement.

Some economists last week predicted speculative pressure on the franc after Finance Minister Pierre Bergovoy said France would free all capital movements on Jan 1.

Bergovoy said the move showed his government's commitment to European monetary union.

Complete freedom of capital movement is one of the preconditions laid down by European Commission President Jacques Delors for monetary union. But France had resisted lifting restrictions because of fears that money would flee abroad in search of more profitable investments.

For the first time since the end of World War II private French citizens will be allowed to hold foreign currency accounts in domestic banks and open bank accounts abroad.

France has repeatedly ruled out a devaluation of the franc against the mark within the European Monetary System (EMS).

But pressure for a realignment of the eight-nation system of exchange rate management has been building due to mark buying by investors who expect West Germany to remain strong next year. The Bank of France had been selling marks last week, but failed to stop it reaching record highs in Paris.

World Bank qualifies power of Brady plan

WASHINGTON (R) — The first results of a U.S. plan to cut Third World debt are encouraging, but it is too early to judge whether it will succeed in restoring economic growth in Latin America, the World Bank said Sunday.

For standards of living to recover, substantial debt reduction must be accompanied by continued economic growth in the industrial world and new lending by commercial banks, the bank said in "World Debt Tables," an annual report.

"It would not be realistic to expect that the new strategy, by itself, can rapidly solve the debt problem of all severely indebted countries," it said.

In March Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady unveiled a plan to encourage banks to write off part of their loans to the developing world in return for partial official guarantees on the remaining credits. Since then Mexico, the Philippines and Costa Rica have clinched deals with their bankers.

Some experts have criticised the agreements, which have not yet been implemented, saying they provide inadequate relief from the crushing burden of debt.

But Stanley Fischer, the World Bank's chief economist, said neither extreme pessimism about the Brady plan, nor excessive optimism, was warranted.

"Instead, it is a time for realism. The year 1989 has been one of substantial progress in advancing the debt strategy, but the future will require continued efforts on the part of debtor countries, their private creditors, and official lenders and donors," Fischer told a news conference.

The World Bank's figures illustrate the enormity of the challenge. Developing countries will owe a total of \$1,165 billion by the end of 1989, \$10 billion more than in 1988 and up from \$753 billion in 1982 when the debt crisis flared up.

At the same time, massive amounts of money are still draining from Third-World countries in debt repayments, depriving them of the funds needed to boost investment and growth.

They will transfer an estimated \$51.6 billion abroad to service their debt this year, barely less than last year's \$52 billion, according to the bank. Until 1982 they were net recipients of credit.

As vital as it is to reduce the mountain of debt, countries will also need significant amounts of new money to finance development, the bank stressed.

It estimated that to restore growth the Group of 19 severely indebted middle-income countries would still need \$4 billion a year in 1990 and beyond, on top of annual debt and interest relief \$6 billion possible under the Brady plan.

Fischer said lending was likely to pick up after 1990 if countries such as Mexico stuck to market-oriented economic reforms, but banks would in future opt increasingly to finance trade and specific investments.

Arab Banking Corporation to operate in Jordan soon

BAHRAIN (R) — The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the Arab World's biggest bank, plans to target Arab rather than international markets for growth in the 1990s in a major policy shift.

ABC President Abdullah Saudi said the Bahrain-based bank, which has subsidiaries in Monaco, West Germany, Spain and Hong Kong, planned to put the expertise it had gained in the 1980s to work in Arab markets.

"Our strategy for the coming few years, now that we have gained experience and recognition internationally, is to pass this information on here," he told Reuters in an interview.

"We need to strengthen our presence in the Arab countries and to penetrate local markets," he added.

Saudi said ABC, which operates as an offshore banking unit from Bahrain, planned to develop an investment and commercial banking network in the Middle East by setting up new companies or subsidiaries with domestic licences.

"We want to create a separate investment banking service here for our clients... perhaps one could even look at ABC as a future Merrill Lynch," he said in a reference to the American investment banking giant.

Saudi said the bank was developing the in-house expertise of its investment banking arm, ABC Investment and Services Co. (E.C.), and planned a major drive into private banking.

Negotiations to establish a presence in Jordan were in their final stages following ABC's purchase of a local investment company, he said.

ABC would take a majority stake in the new firm, which would be a joint venture with Jordan's Housing Bank. It would be able to operate as a commercial bank and was expected to open early in 1990.

"We are studying the different Arab markets to see where to be able to locate ourselves and be starting with the ones who are inviting us to come, like Jordan," Saudi said.

"We are looking at Morocco now and may look later at Egypt and the Gulf," he said. ABC opened representative offices in Tunis and Tripoli this year.

During 1988, 17.2 per cent of the bank's earning assets were located in the Arab World, compared with 47.9 per cent in Europe, 17.1 per cent in Asia, 7.5 per cent in Latin America and 5.9 per cent in North America.

ABC has total assets at the end of 1988 of \$19.13 billion.

Saudi said the bank was negotiating to set up a subsidiary in Europe which would then incorporate its branches in London, Paris and Milan under one umbrella.

But he said plans for the move, aimed at keeping a foothold in Europe after its markets unify in 1992, were not final.

Saudi said ABC shares would be listed for the first time on stock exchanges in London, Luxembourg and probably Bahrain and Kuwait following a planned \$250 million share flotation in the first quarter of 1990.

He said the money from the flotation, which would increase the bank's paid-in capital by 25 per cent to \$1 billion, would be used to finance expansion worldwide.

The new issue is expected to reduce the stakes of ABC's present shareholders, the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry, the Libyan Treasury and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

Last September, ABC became the first Arab bank to receive an international credit rating for its paper.

Standard and Poor's International assigned the bank's long-term certificates of deposit and senior long-term Eurobonds a rating of single-A-minus, an investment grade rating equal to that of many top U.S. banks.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

IDB lends Jordan \$15 million

NICOSIA (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance Jordan's import of \$15 million worth of crude oil under an agreement signed Sunday. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Jordan would import the oil from a member of the 46-member Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO). The Jeddah-based bank was founded by the ICO in 1975 with a \$2.6 billion capital. It has approved nearly \$250 million in grants and interest free loans to poorer Islamic countries this year.

Spain gives Morocco \$22m credit

RABAT (R) — Spain has granted Morocco a long-term credit of 2.4 billion pesetas (\$22 million) the official Moroccan news agency MAP has said. It said the credit, which carries low interest rates, was approved by the Spanish government. The agency did not say what the credit would be used for.

Iraq settles Japanese credits

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi minister said Monday that Japan had agreed to accept oil to settle all outstanding Iraqi debts and had granted Baghdad a new \$3 billion credit line.

Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh told Reuters the deal was signed in Tokyo Saturday.

"We have concluded an agreement which completely settled the repayment of all Iraqi debts and future credit by setting aside a portion of Iraqi oil supplies to Japan to cover current and future dues," Saleh said. He gave no figures.

Saleh, who is also acting finance minister, visiting Japan from Dec. 12-16 at the head of a delegation including representatives of the oil ministry and the central bank to discuss Iraqi debts.

"According to the agreement, Japan will extend a \$3 billion credit line and financial facilities to Iraq to finance development projects and to cover part of Iraq's purchases of commodities from Japan," the minister said.

The new credit would also be repaid by Iraqi oil supplies to Japan, he said. He did not give figures for Iraqi debts to Japan, but by Japanese sources in the region at some 10

per cent of Iraq's total foreign debt of about \$50 billion.

From the start of this year, Tokyo had been accepting oil shipments in part-payment of debts but this covered only a small portion of the total, the sources said.

Saleh did not say how much oil would be involved in the deal, saying only that repayments in oil would be made over the next few years.

"We have once and for all settled the whole Iraqi debts problem with Japan," he said.

He said the new agreement would give Japanese firms new opportunities to enter the Iraqi markets to implement new development projects and supply Iraq with Japanese goods.

Meanwhile, an oil industry newsletter said Monday that Japanese companies are considering buying large amounts of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Chubu Electric Power Company had indicated it might want about four million tonnes of LNG per year from Qatar for 20 years, starting in the second half of the 1990s.

"The Qataris are hoping to convert that expression of in-

terest into a letter of intent some time next year," the Cyprus-based newsletter said.

It said Qatar also hoped to sell a million tonnes of LNG a year to each of two other Japanese power supply companies, Tokyo Electric Power and Kansai.

Jaber Al Marri, managing director of Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC), visited Japan last week, it said.

Qatar plans to start producing LNG in a few years time from its offshore North Field, the world's biggest single non-associated gas reservoir with an estimated 380 trillion cubic feet of reserves.

It aims to produce 800 million cubic feet of natural gas from the North Field by 1992, mainly for domestic use.

MEES said the total cost of developing the field, including building LNG plant and export facilities and acquiring LNG tankers, could be \$5 billion.

LNG exports will be controlled by Qatargas (Qatar Liquefied Gas Company), which is 70 per cent owned by QGPC, British Petroleum, CFP-Total, Marubeni and Mitsui own 7.5 per cent each.

MEES said Qatargas was expected to give the government a cost and pricing forecast for the LNG project next month.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, December 18, 1989 Central Bank official rates		
	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	643.0	649.0
Pound Sterling	1030.8	1041.1
Deutschmark	373.6	377.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6015/25	U.S. dollars	416.1	420.3
One U.S. dollar	1.1600/10	Canadian dollar	109.2	110.3
	1.7215/22	Deutsche marks	445.8	450.3
	1.9430/40	Dutch guilders	330.9	334.2
	1.5460/70	Swiss francs	105.0	104.0
	36.20/23	Belgian francs	49.9	50.4
	5.8840/90	French francs	177.6	179.4
	1286/1287	Italian lire		
	144.20/30	Japanese yen		
	6.2500/50	Swedish crowns		
	6.6585/635	Norwegian crowns		
	6.6845/95	Danish crowns		
One ounce of gold	410.65/411.15	U.S. dollars		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market finished strongly, boosted by hopes of easier interest rates and a fall in the local dollar. The All Ordinaries index ended up 10.1 at 1,629.2.

TOKYO — A flurry of index-linked buying, mostly by arbitrageurs, jerked the Nikkei share index up 315.14 points to a record traded high of 38,586.18.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks showed no sign of losing upward momentum despite lower turnover as Christmas approaches. The Hang Seng ended 3.64 higher at 2,900.21.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed narrowly mixed after moderate and cautious trade. The Straits Times industrial index fell 8.34 to end at 1,460.02.

BOMBAY — Share prices overcame a sluggish start and generally rallied on scattered buying by state-owned investment institutions. The exchange index rose 12.70 points to 772.83.

FRANKFURT — Prices of major West German shares closed slightly higher but trade was thin in the run-up to Christmas. The DAX index of leading shares rose 7.14 points to 1,634.57.

ZURICH — Equities ended lower in lacklustre trade. The Swiss performance index fell 14.3 points to 1,105.9.

PARIS — French prices were lower in quiet session but recovered after falling in early trade on news of a surprise rise in interest rates. The CAC index was down 13.45 points at 1,935.97.

LONDON — Prices remained firm helped by a stronger Wall Street. The water companies were boosted after news of holding in several firms by France's Lyonnaise Des Eaux. At 1615 GMT the FTSE index was 16 points up at 2,361.0.

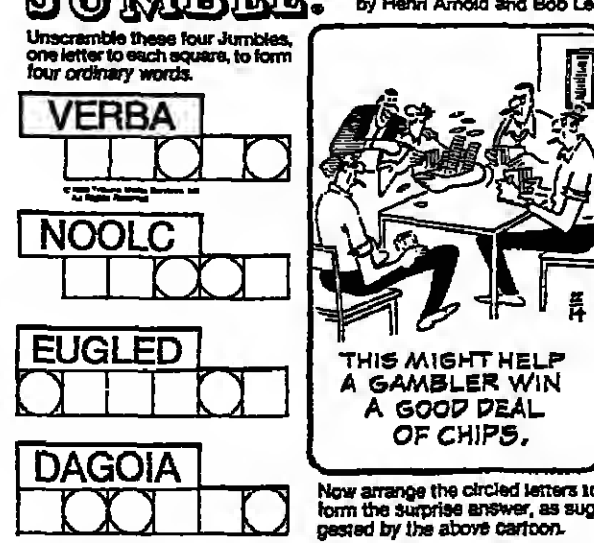
NEW YORK — Stocks edged up on expectations of lower U.S. interest rates. By 1615 GMT the Dow was trading at 2,741.47, up about two points.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



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Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOILY JUROR VIOLIN PHYSIC
Answer: What happens every time he turns over a new leaf?—IT'S POISON IVY

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



European Soccer

Maradona fires broadside at Napoli critics

By Reuters

ARGENTINE soccer wizard Diego Maradona fired a Christmas broadside at Napoli's critics but reserved some seasonal cheer for his fans after masterminding the Italian league leaders' 2-0 win over Bologna at the weekend.

Their victory Sunday took Napoli four points clear at the top and provided a timely answer to sports press and supporters' charges of lacklustre play this season.

"I want to say that people who accuse Napoli of playing badly have got it completely wrong. We've got the winning mentality. Happy Christmas," a genial

Maradona told a wall of fans in his first heart-to-heart with admirers in a month.

The Argentine captain set up goals for Brazil's Careca and Marco Baroni against mid-table Bologna, providing a sizzling reminder of his creative talents ahead of an international friendly between Italy and Argentina on Thursday.

But Italian national manager Azeglio Vicini has lots to worry about as three of his squad were struck down with injury.

Napoli striker Andrea Carnevale twisted an ankle before the Bologna match and did not play. Sampdoria forward Roberto Mancini pulled a thigh muscle.

and Fiorentina's Roberto Baggio said he would undergo fitness tests before Thursday's match, in Cagliari on the island of Sardinia.

"I'll go to Cagliari, but I'm pessimistic," said Baggio as he limped off the pitch after going top of the scorers' table with his ninth goal this season.

The battle for the Spanish and Dutch championships took on a traditional look as Real Madrid confirmed their national supremacy with a 5-1 mauling of lowly Logrones and Ajax Amsterdam slugged it out with defending champions PSV Eindhoven.

The pack chasing Real thinned to three teams — Barcelona, Valencia and Atletico Madrid —

but no current goal-scoring form Real will be hard to catch.

A bat trick by Mexican Hugo Sanchez strengthened his position as the league's top scorer with 18 and took Real's tally to 48 in 16 games, 12 more than Barcelona.

Barcelona had to wait until the 74th minute to clinch a 1-0 win in Malaga no a pitch sodden by a month of rain on the Costa Del Sol. "It's impossible to play soccer on such a pitch," Dutch coach Johan Cruyff said.

Cruyff's former team Ajax snatched first place in the Dutch league with a 3-0 home victory against lowly NEC Nijmegen.

PSV, with two games in hand, are one point behind after a

second-half hat trick, by Brazilian striker Romario inspired them to a 4-0 home win against bottom side Haarlem on Saturday.

But both PSV and Ajax were criticised for dull play in their last matches before Dutch soccer's winter break.

"From the moment that it was

clear there was no more contest, Ajax went to sleep to such a staggering extent that the game was about as exciting as a visit to one's mother-in-law on Christmas," the mass-circulation Telegraaf lamented.

Winter breaks also loom in France, West Germany and Belgium.

French league leaders Bordeaux nipped a 3-1 win over Lille which left them three points ahead of Marseille and nine ahead of third-placed Sochaux as the league enters a seven-week break.

But Belgian trainer Raymond Goethals was cagey on his side's chances of winning the championship: "I would only start thinking about the title if we were six points clear."

Bayern Munich will emerge from West Germany's eight-week hiatus in their customary place at the top of the standings.

He lost only 12 games in his singles victories over Masters Champion Stefan Edberg and former world number one Mats Wilander and dropped serve just once in three days — during Saturday's doubles win against Anders Jarryd and Jan Gunnarsson to which West Germany's Eric Jelen contributed more errors than winners.

"He played maybe the best tennis of his life," Wilander, who has dropped to 12th on the computer rankings, said of Becker.

"It just seemed like everything he hit turned out to be winners."

Becker insists the West German's second successive cup win was down to good teamwork. But though Carl-Uwe Steeb, who beat Wilander in last December's final in Gothenburg, has improved his world ranking by 58 places this year to 15th, he is still

Becker responsible for Swedish eclipse

STUTTGART, West Germany (R) — An impressive decade for Swedish tennis that started with Bjorn Borg winning his fifth Wimbledon title and featured three Davis Cup victories drew to a sorry close with Sweden's finest all eclipsed by one man — Boris Becker.

It was a sad irony that the nation which prided itself on the depth of its tennis talent, despite a population of only eight million, should find its efforts to win the Davis Cup back from West

Germany blocked by a single player. Still only 22, already three-times Wimbledon winner and now U.S. Open champion, his virtually solo triumph underscored his assertion that he will soon take the world number one ranking from Ivan Lendl.

Becker was responsible for all West Germany's points in the 3-2 victory at the weekend in the third final between the two nations.

inconsistent in cup play. Steeb lost to Wilander and Edberg in Stuttgart's Schleyer hall.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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SPOT THE COMBINATION

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 4
♥ K 7 2
♦ K 10 9 7 3 2
♣ 5

EAST
♠ K 8 2
♥ Q 8 5 4
♦ Q Q
♣ K Q J 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 5 3
♥ A 9 3
♦ A J 6 4
♣ A 10 9

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We have often been asked for the one great secret to winning bridge. Are you ready for this? Find yourself a good partner! North had a lot to be thankful for on this hand.

With his collection of losers, North should have realized that, since his hand was likely to produce at least six tricks for partner, nine tricks might prove easier to make than 11. At three no trump, South would have indulged in the pleasant luxury of simply gathering tricks. Five diamonds was another matter. West led a top club, and declarer

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1989

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is favorable for artistic endeavors. Avoid arguments and comments pertaining to associations of an usual or routine nature in the P.M.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Finish present tasks quickly so that you can accept a new project. Go out of your way to accede to requests made by your attachment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take your family out today to a medium priced restaurant. You need to be more aware of all aspects of your business affairs.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A brilliant new idea from a pioneering type of person will help your money position. A very good day for your regular household duties.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't get involved at home about an outsider whom you do not like. Your attachment now would resent your spending too much on pleasures.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be very generous in your attitude to those who dwell beneath your roof. You may feel neglected because of other persons close to your attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Ask an expert friend what to do about a new obligation, but keep your purse zipped when a strange proposition comes along.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You will need to be patient with home and household problems.

lems. Take your attachment to meet as many friends as are available.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make your home the center of your activity now. With practical matters all about you, you will need all your cleverness to handle them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't jump at conclusions because a different situation exists at home. A new attitude towards your mate will work wonders.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Delays in business matters can not be helped. If possible take your attachment on a trip to visit some interesting objects.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Lots of new friends can bring more excitement into your life. Entertain those at home who are having a difficult time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't leave loyal friends for glittering new acquaintances. A new idea will be excellent for you in raising money. Include your mate in this.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will tend to view situations from their broadest angles and to offer assistance to all who need it, regardless of race, creed or colour. Business activities will be a natural for this progeny and many students will benefit from their helpfulness.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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3. To be single (unmarried)

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THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Wicks

ACROSS

1. Huzzahs
2. Cornish part
3. Basketball playmaker
4. — avis
5. USSR sea
6. Actress Dickinson
7. Along with
8. Muse number
9. Refrigeration field
10. Escape failure
11. — urously
12. Alp
13. Colong
14. — yx
15. Bald
16. Moslem prince
17. Ego
18. FDR agcy.
19. Be very
20. Common word
21. Lyric poems
22. Handel's
23. Birthplace
24. "Death of —"
25. Vibrato
26. Resort
27. Long time
28. Begin
29. Blotting neighbor
30. "Othello"
31. Beer left
32. Diminish
33. Biblical word
34. Go away!
35. Feast
36. Pitcher
37. Mortar troughs

Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

DOWN

1. Roberts
2. Monk
3. Mosan of "Happy Days"
4. Old Jewish sect member
5. Is using by 28D
6. Haraway
7. Horace or Thomas
8. Sailing term
9. Movie
10. Electrician
11. Imaginary
12. Tumb
13. Beer left
14. Painting style
15. Rigid
16. Thal coins
17. Indian
18. Cut at an angle
19. Singer Paddy
20. Potatoes
21. "Seven Year Itch" actor
22. Short time
23. Gratitude
24. Fountain fare
25. "I Am —"
26. Baring by 28D
27. Pang of pain
28. Indistinctly
29. Property
30. Gerns
31. Wobble
32. Mild oath
33. Minor minors
34. Verve
35. Punta del —
36. Cabbage dish
37. TX city
38. Mild oath
39. Minor minors
40. Enraged

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

WALL STREET

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Shirhan, Farouq Al Fishawi in

THE GUIDE

(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

TWO MOON JUNCTION

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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Ladies Shoes & Leather Bags	819785
Token Gifts & Kid's World	826338
Gifts in General & Silver Gifts	825952
Europcar	827120
Car Rentals	827892
Decent	823552
Ladies Boutique	826116
Chocolate House	824610
Fine Chocolates	827368
Majdi Coiffure	827118
Complete Services	
Silk Touch	
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Complete Services	
Amra Barber Shop	
Complete Services	
World Resources	
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Lethal Weapon "2"

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Cinema Tel: 674111

PLAZA

REBEL HIGH

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Thousands mourn slain drug baron

BOGOTA, (Agencies) — Thousands in the hometown that Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha ran as a fiefdom turned out to mourn the slain drug dealer, though the government has characterised his death as victory for the Colombian people.

The bodies of Rodriguez Gacha and his 17-year-old son Freddy, along with five of their bodyguards, had originally been buried late Saturday at public expense in a common grave in Sincoralejo, near where the drug dealers were killed in a shootout with Colombian police forces Friday.

But Colombian authorities on Sunday authorised exhumation of the body of Rodriguez and his son, and relatives took the remains to Pacho, a rural town 40 kilometres (24 miles) from Bogota.

In Pacho, a town of 20,000 where Rodriguez Gacha was born, thousands attended the burial at the local cemetery in a luxurious wooden coffin.

Police remained on alert in the area and no incidents were reported.

Peasants near Rodriguez Gacha's Pacho ranch have told reporters that the cocaine baron gave away thousands of dollars, providing money for medical treatment and for seed and equipment when local farmers they could not get loans from the

government's farm bank. Rodriguez Gacha, 42, alias "The Mexican," was the number two man in the Medellin cartel. His death marked the biggest government blow against the drug barons since the government launched its anti-narcotics offensive on Aug. 18.

Residents of Pacho considered Rodriguez Gacha to be their benefactor and the El Espectador newspaper wrote on Sunday, "he was considered the owner of the town."

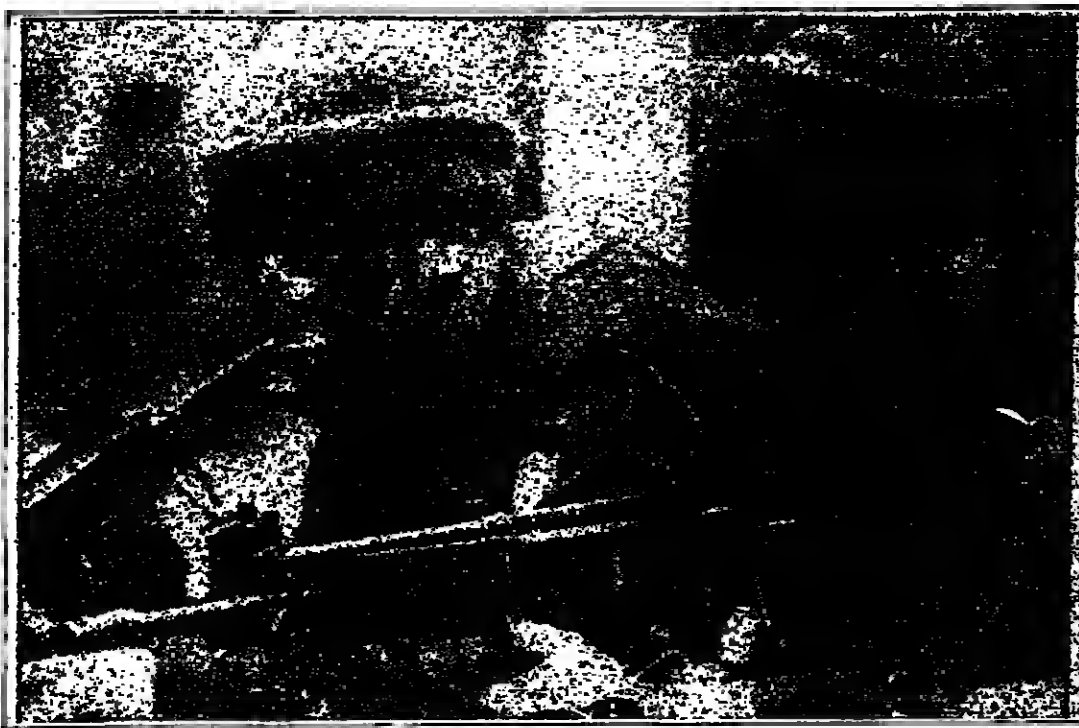
Rodriguez Gacha, born into a poor peasant family in Pacho in 1947, was believed to be one of the wealthiest men in Colombia.

In November, Colombian authorities found \$5.24 million at one of his properties and U.S. and European banking authorities froze \$61.5 million in cash and high yield certificates of deposit held in five foreign countries.

He also ran front companies managing scores of enterprises, according to authorities.

Known as "The Mexican" for his love of popular Mexican culture, Rodriguez Gacha named numerous estates around Pacho for Mexican cities and states like Tijuana, Cuernavaca, and Chihuahua and Jalisco.

Following the launching of the anti-narcotics offensive, the army seized more than 20 estates around the town, most believed to belong to Rodriguez Gacha.



Colombia's anti-narcotic policemen during a training exercise in Bogotá

Popular protest hits Romania

VIENNA (Agencies) — Romanian police on Sunday attacked thousands of demonstrators in the city of Timisoara who were protesting the hardline communist rule of Nicolae Ceausescu, according to the Hungarian state news agency and other sources.

The protest began Saturday night and continued into Sunday morning, according to the reports. Witnesses reported seeing injured people, but the extent and severity of the injuries was not immediately apparent.

A caller told the Hungarian Danubius radio station late Sunday that he had learned from a telephone call to Timisoara that crowds still were in the streets. Yugoslav travellers earlier told the Associated Press in Belgrade that Timisoara, about 400 kilometres from Bucharest, the capital, remained restive.

However, Ceausescu left for a state visit to Iran on Monday. Two of the country's main state-controlled newspapers carried appeals for respect of law and order and the strict application of the law, according to the official Agerpres news agency.

According to Yugoslav and Hungarian media, the demonstration on Sunday by thousands of ethnic Hungarians began after police tried to evict from his apartment a priest known as a

defender of their rights. But it later turned into a political protest against the autocratic rule of Ceausescu.

"The two newspapers (Romania Libera and the Communist Party daily Scinteia Timorelui) publish notes on the demand for the strict respect for the laws of the country and their firm application," Agerpres said.

"Romania Libera stresses in its note that, in the view of the Romanian Communist Party, the whole socio-economic construction of Romania is firmly set on the law... which must be observed and applied to the letter."

Western diplomats contacted in Bucharest said they had received reports from Timisoara saying about 10,000 people had taken part in the demonstration.

"We have heard of some injuries, but no deaths," one diplomat told Reuters in Vienna.

The diplomat was unable to give any figures, adding that no Westerners had so far been able to get to Timisoara.

Another diplomat said that Western tourists were reported to be having trouble entering Romania.

The demonstration is believed to be one of the largest outbreaks of protest in recent years in Romania, which has been the last East bloc holdout against the reforms sweeping the rest of the

bloc.

The Hungarian state news agency MTI quoted a television reporter in Szeged, Hungary — about 80 kilometres from Timisoara — as saying that the demonstration developed after hundreds of people formed a human chain "around" a church where dissident reformed church clergyman the Rev. Laszlo Toekes and his family had taken refuge.

Authorities had planned to deport Toekes, but his fate was not immediately known, said MTI.

Citizens "tried to prevent the eviction of their clergyman when he broke loose and the human chain changed into a demonstration of thousands against Ceausescu and his regime, Sunday morning, MTI said.

"Riot police tried to suppress the demonstration, and a bloody brawl started," the Hungarian report said. It took almost two hours for the policemen to gain the upper hand.

MTI, quoting the television reporter, said, "eyewitnesses saw bloodied young people in the streets of Timisoara and Ceausescu pictures floating on the Bega Canal. They said many of the demonstrators were arrested."

The Yugoslav witnesses said that protesters Saturday night smashed the window of a bookstore, threw Ceausescu books into the street and burned them.

German leaders meet in East

EAST BERLIN (R) — The heads of state of East and West Germany have met for the first time on East German soil against a background of accelerating contacts between the two countries.

West German President Richard von Weizsaecker met East Germany's Manfred Gerlach in Potsdam and three Bonn government members talked politics in Leipzig and Halle.

The contacts followed official trips to East Berlin last week by the West German economics and environment ministers and came before Tuesday's arrival of Chancellor Helmut Kohl for his first official visit to East Germany.

Up to half a million people are expected to turn out in Dresden to see Kohl who, according to West German press reports, will arrive with proposals for a cash injection worth more than \$50 billion over the next decade.

Sunday's high-ranking visitors urged caution on the many East Germans now clamouring to be united with their bigger, richer brother.

Von Weizsaecker, emerging from his talks in the building where the "big three" Potsdam conference of 1945 split up the former Nazi Third Reich, said the two Germanys must demonstrate "a moral conscience."

"It is in both our interests that our neighbours... should not feel that the coming together of the two German states should give them cause for concern about their territory," he told reporters after talks with Gerlach.

The East German acting head of state, a non-Communist, echoed the warning, as did reformist Prime Minister Hans Modrow, who also attended the surprise meeting and will play host to Kohl.

In a sign of the times since popular protest swept headline headlines from power and threw open the Berlin Wall, the East German Communist Party's new chief, Gregor Gysi, was not present.

West German Labour Minister Norbert Blum and Parliamentary Speaker Rita Suessmuth went to see Gysi's opponents in Leipzig, where they witnessed the formation of a new party by the protest group Democratic Awakening.

In Halle, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher strolled through his home town, as he often does at Christmas, but this time fielding along the way urgent questions from East Germans concerned about the reunification issue.

Reunification also stirred passions at the Democratic Awakening congress, where the majority voted to pursue unity, and at a crisis congress in East Berlin of the SED, East Germany's once invulnerable Communist Party.

"Those demanding a special German route to unification outside the framework of German unity are playing, consciously or unconsciously, with fire," Gysi told his party.

"Greater Germany would be a victory for the right."

Gandhi takes opposition seat

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh took his oath as a member of the new parliament Monday, and the Congress Party that gave India three generations of leaders was relegated to the role of opposition for only the second time in history.

After he was sworn in, Singh told reporters he would continue the dialogue initiated Sunday to find a political solution to the Sikh militant movement that has claimed more than 7,000 lives in Punjab in the past eight years.

For the first time, key militants have entered the national political mainstream, winning nine of Punjab's 13 seats in the parliament.

Singh pledged to uphold the constitution, then walked across the floor to shake hands with ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Gandhi was sworn in after Singh and members of his cabinet took their oaths.

Singh is expected to seek a vote of confidence from parliament Thursday, the first parliamentary test for the unlikely coalition his own centrist National Front formed with right-wing Hindu fundamentalists and an array of communists and socialists.

The Congress Party captured 192 seats in the Nov. 22-26 elections but needed 263 for a majority. Singh's National Front got only 144, but its pledges of post-election support from the leftists

and rightists give it 283 votes — more than enough to carry a motion.

Singh's supporters cheered and slapped the palms of their hands on their tables as he was sworn in.

Singh ousted Gandhi from the prime minister's job on a platform of clean government and vows to repair the cracks in the country's religious harmony. His first trip out of New Delhi after being named prime minister Dec. 2 was to Punjab, where he visited the Sikh faith's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's decision to storm the temple in 1984 led to her revenge killing later that year. She was succeeded by her son, Gandhi's grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, was India's first prime minister.

None of the Sikh militants elected to the new parliament was among the first legislators to be sworn in, since the oaths of rank-and-file parliament members are administered alphabetically state by state. The 525 members of the ninth Lok Sabha to convene since independence from Britain in 1947 were each sworn in Monday.

Also Monday, another cabinet appointment was announced: Mamabikilathil Govind Kumar Menon, a cosmic ray physicist, as minister of science and technology.

It was the first time the post has gone to a scientist.

Sakharov funeral turns political rally

MOSCOW (R) — Eighty thousand Muscovites, hemmed in by hundreds of troops, packed a sports park Monday for the public funeral of Andrei Sakharov, which soon turned from a ceremony of mourning into a rally for the political opposition.

A succession of speakers, from fellow scientists and parliamentarians to friends and former dissidents, paid tribute to the late physicist for his relentless struggle for the cause of human rights and democratic freedom.

"He was a real prophet in the ancient sense of the word, a man who did everything for the sake of a better future," said academician Dmitry Likhachev.

"And like all prophets, he was misunderstood and expelled from his own town," he added, referring to Sakharov's internal exile to the closed city of Gorky between 1980 and 1986, imposed by the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

At least 10,000 mourners had accompanied the coffin of Sakharov, who died Thursday aged 68, from a lying-in-state at the Academy of Sciences to the Luzhni sports complex.

There, a huge crowd, holding aloft black-ribbed portraits of Sakharov, national flags of the Soviet republics, banners, placards and lighted candles, waited for three hours in ice, slush and sleet for the ceremony to begin.

Several carried signs or wore badges depicting the figure "6" crossed out, calling for the removal from the constitution of Article Six, which guarantees the leading role of the Communist Party in Soviet society.

"You will always remain a liv-

ing example to us," proclaimed one slogan. "Forgive us, Andrei Dmitrievich, we should have come out onto the square in 1980," said another.

When a grey bus arrived carrying the coffin and close family and friends, speakers tried for several minutes to persuade the crowds to move back to clear a space in front of the podium.

But lines of brown-uniformed Interior Ministry troops, arms linked and tucked into each other's belts, prevented people from moving, only giving way after an appeal from radical historian Yuri Afanasyev.

The red-draped coffin was placed on a raised plinth, with Sakharov's portrait at its head. Hundreds of wreaths and bunches of red carnations were passed over the heads and shoulders of the crowd to be laid at the foot of the column.

Earlier, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and other members of the ruling politburo went out in icy rain to pay last respects to Sakharov.

Gorbachev viewed the body early in the morning outside the Academy of Sciences, to which Sakharov, considered the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, had belonged. Gorbachev also spoke at length with Bomber, Sakharov's dissident comrade-in-arms.

"Now it is clear that he deserved the Nobel Prize," Gorbachev told reporters of the man who had been hounded for years and banished into internal exile by past Soviet leaders for his courageous human rights campaigns.

Philippine revolt leaders demand sweeping reform

MANILA (Agencies) — Army rebels Monday called for a new military-backed government and far-reaching reforms in the Philippines, saying the country was "so sick that it needs major surgery."

In a 24-point set of demands for President Corason Aquino, rebel leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan called for an end to the Roman Catholic Church's intervention in politics, reform of the justice system and an amnesty for political offenders.

In a statement published Monday by the opposition newspaper Newday, the cashiered army colonel urged Aquino to either form a coalition government to implement radical reforms or step down in favour of a new governing council "under the protection of the soldiers of the people."

"Our country is so sick that it needs major surgery before its ailment becomes incurable," the

manifesto declared.

Meanwhile Aquino threatened to close broadcast stations that air rebel propaganda in the tension following the recent failed coup attempt.

Also Monday, the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives were expected to give final approval to legislation granting Aquino special powers to restore order in the wake of the Dec. 1-9 uprising by thousands of military mutineers.

A bomb threat forced the evacuation of Manila's city hall and suspected communist rebels killed a police captain Monday.

Prices rose slightly Monday on the Manila stock exchange, but the rally then fizzled because of a lack of foreign investors, traders said.

In a news conference, Aquino was asked what measures would be taken against the Philippine media under the state of emergency she declared Dec. 6.

She noted that broadcast outlets operate under government franchises, which forbid the airing of subversive propaganda. Such restrictions existed before the emergency decree but were loosely enforced.

"If they violate these terms and conditions, they will be closed, their franchises will be taken away from them," Aquino said.

She added that if it is determined that a newspaper had printed "any article that will incite to rebellion" the government "will go to court to file charges against the erring individual or the publication."

Aquino Sunday ordered the immediate trial of leaders of the military coup attempt, branding them traitors paid "30 pieces of silver" to bring her down.

In a national radio broadcast, she said the rebel leaders would be shown no mercy.

She urged civilians to come forward with information

U.S., Panama trade charges

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Military officers from the United States and Panama have met to discuss a weekend confrontation in which a U.S. officer died, opposition politicians said.

U.S. authorities refused to comment on the report of a meeting Sunday to discuss the incident, in which another U.S. officer was wounded and a navy couple beaten.

The contact was reported to be through the joint board, a liaison between the two countries' military forces that deals with Panama Canal security and defence.

Earlier in a statement, the U.S. Southern Command, which has headquarters in Panama, said the officer slain Saturday was "off duty, unarmed and in civilian clothes when he and three others were stopped by Panamanian soldiers near the (Panamanian) defence headquarters in the old section of Panama City."

The Panamanians tried to drag the Americans out of their car and fired at them as they drove off, killing one officer, it said. His identity was withheld, pending notification of relatives.

The Panamanian Defence Forces (PDF) accused the U.S. officers of a provocation, without mentioning the American's death or acknowledging the arrest of the navy officer.

It said the American soldiers broke through the checkpoints and fired at the headquarters, wounding a soldier and two civilians, including a one-year-old girl.

The Pentagon said a U.S. navy lieutenant and his wife were stopped at the same roadblock as the other soldiers a half-hour earlier and witnessed the shooting. The Panamanians then blindfolded both with masking tape and interrogated and beat them for about four hours.

The Pentagon said the man was

kicked in the groin and head and the woman slammed against the wall so hard that her head was cut before they were released.

Panamanian troops Sunday blocked streets leading to Manuel Antonio Noriega's headquarters with trucks and buses, while U.S. soldiers guarded their bases.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in his statement, "the lack of discipline and control in the Panamanian Defence Forces is further evidence that Panama is a country without a government."

The 12,000 U.S. troops stationed in the Panama Canal area were restricted to base Sunday and only authorised movement was permitted.

The Panama Canal was operating normally, a spokesman said, and had not been effected by the incidents.

The incidents came a day after the National Assembly declared that Panama was in a state of war and appointed Noriega head of government, granting him wide powers to appoint officials and conduct foreign affairs.

A White House official speaking before details of the beating were released, declined to link the shooting to Friday's events.

"I am not drawing any conclusions at this time," said White House spokesman Roman Popadink.

The United States, which does not recognise Panama's government, has imposed a series of economic sanctions against the country in an effort to oust Noriega. The country's economy, once robust, has been crippled.

The Panamanian leader, who narrowly survived a coup attempt on Oct. 3, was indicted in the United States last year on drug trafficking and other charges he has denied.

Column

Zsa Zsa fired from film role

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP) — It seemed an unlikely role — Zsa Zsa Gabor as Saudi Arabian royalty — and the sharp-tongued Hungarian lost the job because of a tiff with the man who's bankrolling the movie. Sheikh Mohammad Al Fassi fired Miss Gabor before the pair even met because of disparaging remarks she made about him in a dispute over travel expenses, said Chris Christenson, producer of the planned epic on Saudi history.

The dispute began Saturday, when Miss Gabor cancelled an appearance with Fassi to promote the project, Christenson said Sunday. The actress-socialite — recently in the news for slapping a police officer — demanded travel expenses and in the course of discussions with an aide, said she had reservations about Fassi's character, Christenson said. "She said 'I don't trust him. I've heard bad things,' and he went and told the prince," Christenson said.

"And the prince came to me and said why would we use (her) if she doesn't trust me," Miss Gabor, believed to be in her late 60s or early 70s, denied making disparaging remarks. Fassi and producer say they will spend \$50 million on the movie chronicling Saudi Arabia from the time of King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud to the present. Their attention was drawn by Miss Gabor's trial for slapping the officer, and they cast her as the king's mother.

Comaneci on spending spree

POMPAHO BEACH, Florida (AP) — Nadia Comaneci plopped down nearly \$20,000 in traveller's checks on a Canaro convertible and shopped her way through clothing stores this week, sales clerks said. Escorted by Constantine Panait, the married roofer who has accompanied the Olympic gold-medal gymnast since she fled Romania, Comaneci was staying in a \$130-a-night suite at the best Western beachcomber resort and villas in Pompano Beach. Thomas Martin, a salesman at Maroune Chevrolet, said he sold Comaneci the Canaro, a black convertible automatic with gray bucket seats. She originally had her eye on a used Corvette, he said, but Martin steered her toward the convertible. Dealership manager Ken Patlak said Comaneci whipped out a wad of travellers checks to close the deal. At a department store she got a 30 per cent discount on a \$184 "social dress," a knee-length white jersey decorated with pearls and beads, said Phyllis Paul, a clerk at the store. She also stopped at the cosmetic and shoe counters, she added. The stay at the hotel and some of the shopping spree and her bar tab were apparently paid by British tabloids, which sent writers and photographers to accompany Comaneci, hotel employees said.

Heroin inside live calf

MONTEFORTE IRPINO, Italy (R) — Vets inspecting a calf before slaughter found a kg of heroin in a container in its stomach, police said Friday. A slaughterhouse in this village 20 kilometres east of Naples bought the calf, apparently in good faith, at a large livestock market outside the city, they said. The animal had probably been used in a mafia attempt to smuggle the heroin into Italy and had been sold by mistake, the police said. They said the calf came from northern Europe but refused further details while investigations continued.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	9	11	Cloudy
ATHENS	12	18	Cloudy
BAGDAHD	15	20	Cloudy
BANGKOK	18	24	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	20	Cloudy
CAIRO	10	23	Cloudy
CHICAGO	16	22	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	07	08	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	11	14	Cloudy
GENEVA	09	10	Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	24	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	10	18	Cloudy
LONDON	08	11	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	10	18	Cloudy
MADRID	08	14	Cloudy
MECCA	18	24	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-10	-03	Cloudy
MOSCOW	-07	-01	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	X	X	X
NEW YORK	08	14	Cloudy
PARIS	08	14	Cloudy
ROME	07	10	Cloudy
SYDNEY	15	22	Cloudy
TOKYO	07	14	Cloudy
VIENNA	X	X	X

X - indicates missing information.